THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[11] 道のない街

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 11

道のない街

朝日ソノラマ

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道のない街
異常接近！
地図の町
サイレンの村
超自然転校生

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解説／米沢嘉博…225

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EDITED BY NAEREID
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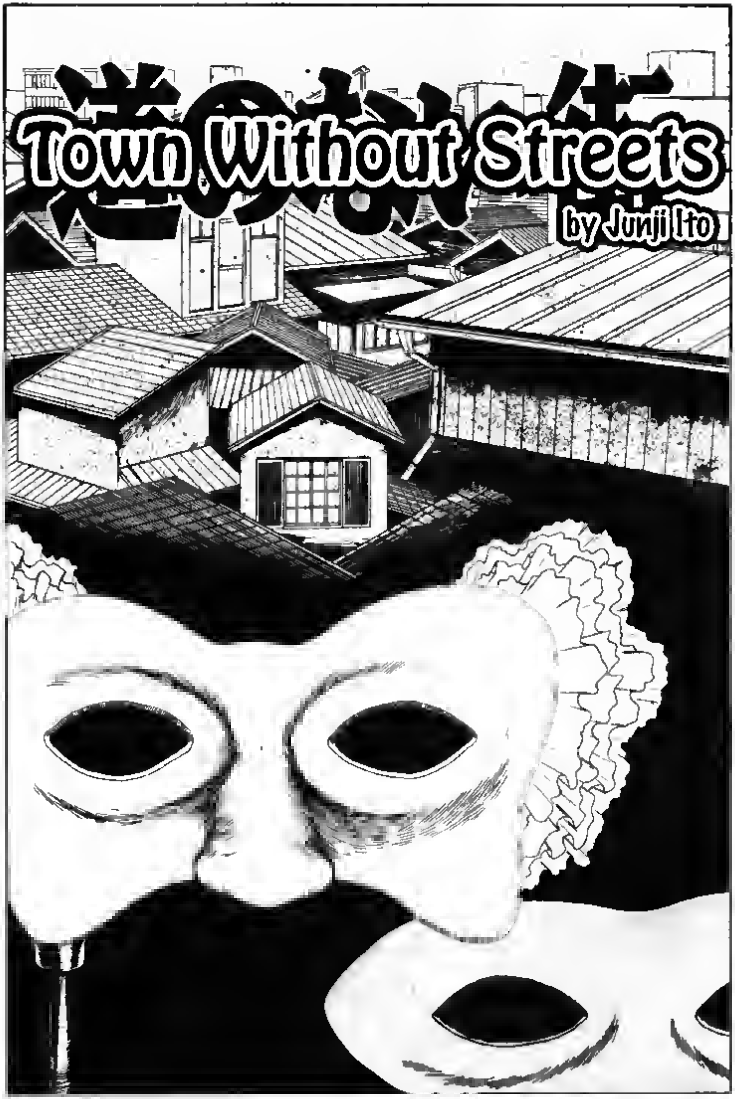


It was just last summer
I still remember the Aristotle incident pretty clearly.
SAIKO! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO LIE THERE? WAKE UP, YOU'LL BE LATE!
I KNOW, I KNOW
GEEZ.
IT WAS A GOOD DREAM, TOO
HUH? WIDE OPEN AGAIN? IT WAS COLD, COULD'VE SWORN I LEFT IT OPEN JUST A CRACK
IT HAPPENS, I GUESS
ジャッ

Kishimoto was a boy in my class.
From then on, I began to see him in my dreams all the time.
WHY'D I DREAM ABOUT HIM?
BUT KISHIMOTO, OF ALL PEOPLE
WELL, WHATEVER
In my dreams, he spoke so clear and polite.
But from around May, I started dreaming about him a lot.
We'd never spoken, and I never had any reason to notice him.
He was shy, and just kind of there.
I brushed it off at first, but after the millionth time? Anyone would be worried.

HUH? NO
YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY QUIET, SAI. YOU LOOKIN' AT SOMETHING?
SERIOUSLY? GOD.
HEY, SAI!
SO I CHECKED IT OUT, AND LIKE -
WHAT -... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NO WAY.
YEAH RIGHT. YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT KISHIMOTO THIS WHOLE TIME!
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, SAIKO?
KUMI? HELP MEEE.
It was all true. I'd started to have feelings for him.
BIT OF A SHOCK. THAT'S YOUR TYPE?
HA! SO IT'S TRUE?
KISHI -.. MOTO.
HUH? WHO?
UM, I THINK I LIKE HIM.

UM, SAIKO?
YEAH. THIS IS JUST MY TAKE ON IT, BUT MAYBE I ALWAYS LIKED HIM, LIKE UNCONSCIOUSLY. SO THERE HE IS IN MY DREAMS.
IN YOUR DREAMS?
ACTUALLY, HE'S ALWAYS TURNING UP IN MY DREAMS.
I THINK IT MIGHT BE THAT ARISTOTLE THING.
ARIS ... TOTLE?
THEY CALL IT THE ARISTOTLE WAY. NO IDEA WHY.
JUST SOMETHING I HEARD. A WAY TO GET BOYS TO NOTICE YOU. OR GIRLS.
WHY'D YOU BRING HIM UP?
ISN'T HE THAT OLD PHILOSOPHY GUY?
ANYWAY, IT GOES LIKE THIS:

高塚
YOU KNOW WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING AROUND OTHER PEOPLE, AND THEY SHOW UP IN YOUR DREAM?
LIKE THAT. BUT IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE YOU KNOW ALREADY.
YOUR VOICE GETS INTO THEIR DREAM, AND THEY END UP DREAMING OF YOU.
WHILE THE ONE YOU LIKE IS SLEEPING, YOU SNEAK INTO THEIR ROOM AND WHISPER IN THEIR EAR. YOU CAN'T WAKE THEM UP, THOUGH.
SCREW IT UP, AND YOU'D TOTALLY SEEM LIKE A PERV OR SOME THIEF.
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, THOUGH
高塚
AND IF SOMEONE KEEPS APPEARING, THEY KEEP LINGERING, AND YOU GET TO LIKE THEM.
DREAMS STAY IN YOUR HEAD, RIGHT? AND THOSE KINDS, ALL THE MORE.
DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY -
DUNNO ABOUT THAT.
HA! QUIT IT, KUMI.
SNEAKING INTO MY ROOM WHILE I'M ASLEEP? UMM . . . KUMI?
SO YOU'RE SAYING KISHIMOTO'S BEEN DOING THIS ARISTOTLE THING TO ME?
JUST LOOK AT HIM, HE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS.

YOU'VE BEEN SNEAKING BOYS INTO YOUR ROOM AT NIGHT.
HUH? WHAT'D I DO, KEICHI?
HEY SIS? YOU'VE SERIOUSLY GOT SOME GUTS
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
AT NIGHT, I TOTALLY HEARD A BOY'S VOICE COMING FROM YOUR ROOM!
YOU HAVE! I HEARD YOU GUYS!
WHAT? PSSH, SHUT UP.

KEICHI! STOP TELLING LIES ABOUT ME!
NO WAY! I'D NEVER DO THAT!
SAIKO ... IS THIS TRUE?
WHAT? EVEN YOU'RE AGAINST ME?
I DO HEAR SOUNDS AT NIGHT.
I HAVE TO AGREE THERE.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE WINDOW BEING LEFT OPEN SOME NIGHTS.
IT MIGHT BE HIM. KISHIMOTO.
BUT IF IT'S TRUE, THAT'S BREAKING AND ENTERING, RIGHT? THAT'S A CLEAR INVASION OF MY PRIVACY.
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

I DOUBT HE'LL BE COMING TONIGHT.
HATE TO DO THIS, BUT I'LL LEAVE IT OPEN A LITTLE
AHH, SO HOT!
That night, I had an awful dream.
SAIKO? SAIKO, IT'S ME! I BROUGHT A PRESENT FOR YOU!
I SPENT ALL MY SAVINGS ON IT
IT'S A RING
I DON'T THINK I WANT THAT.
HUH? WHY NOT!

HOW COULD YOU.
YEAH.
YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT ARISTOTLE THING, HAVEN'T YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SNEAKING INTO MY ROOM AT NIGHT? HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF PRIVACY?
IF YOU'D GO THAT FAR, WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME AND TALK TO ME IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I'M SORRY. I WAS ... SO SCARED
PLEASE. I REALLY DO LIKE YOU.
I PROMISE AND THIS SHOULD SHOW YOU HOW SERIOUS I AM. IT'S YOURS
WOW, FOR ME?
ALL RIGHT? NO MORE OF THIS, PLEASE.
THEN YOU CAN COME AND TELL ME AT SCHOOL TOMORROW

WHO - WHO ARE YOU?!
HEE HEE HEE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH
HA WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU
WHO ARE YOU?!
REALLY VERY ANGRY NOW
BUT I SHOULD SAY I'M GETTING RATHER ANGRY WITH YOU
WELL
YOU CAN CALL ME JACK THE RIPPER

シュッシュッ!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE NOW
S-STOP!
AHHHH-
-AH!
GOD...
...WHAT WAS THAT?
HEY!
THIS WAS IN MY DREAM...
BUT NOW THE RING'S GONE...

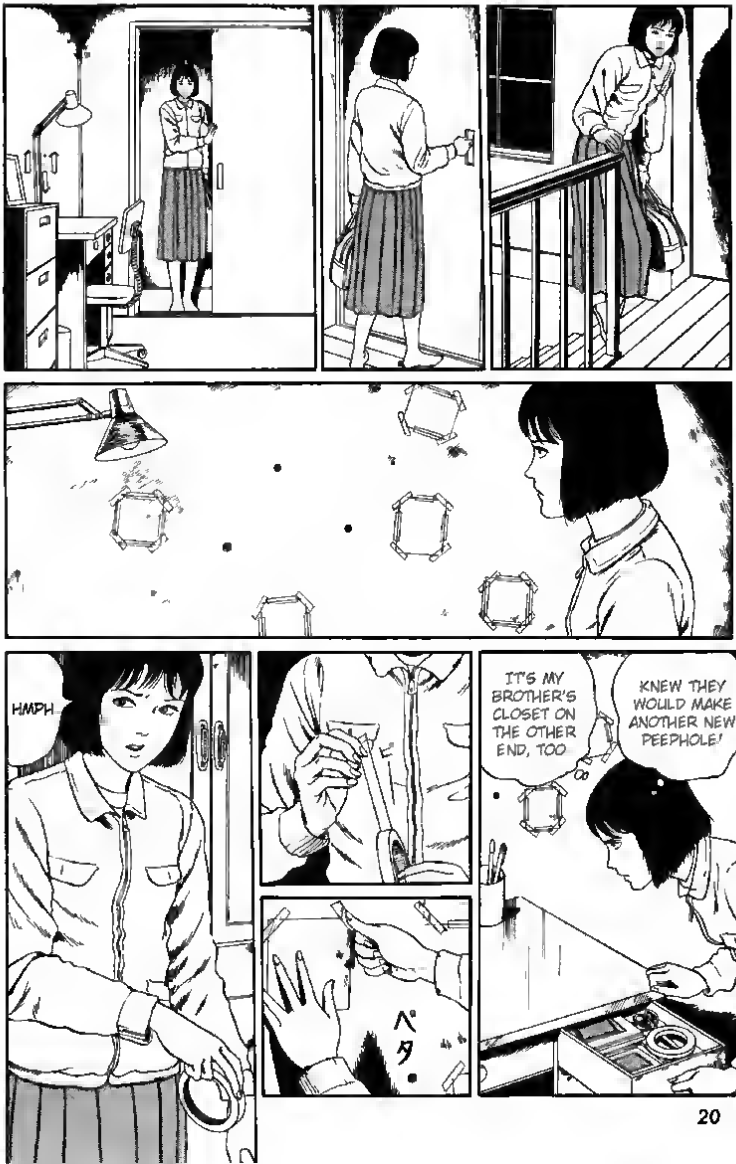
THE KILLER'S M.O. LOOKS JUST LIKE THE KUROKAWA KILLINGS. THIS COULD BE SERIAL.
Later that day, they found Kishimoto's gutted body in the street.
They didn't find who did it.
BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RING?
WHOEVER KILLED HIM - IF I LEAVE MY ROOM, THEY COULD GET ME TOO.
But even after the Aristotle affair, there were weirder things awaiting me.
NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
WAS IT THE MAN IN THE DREAM THAT DID IT?

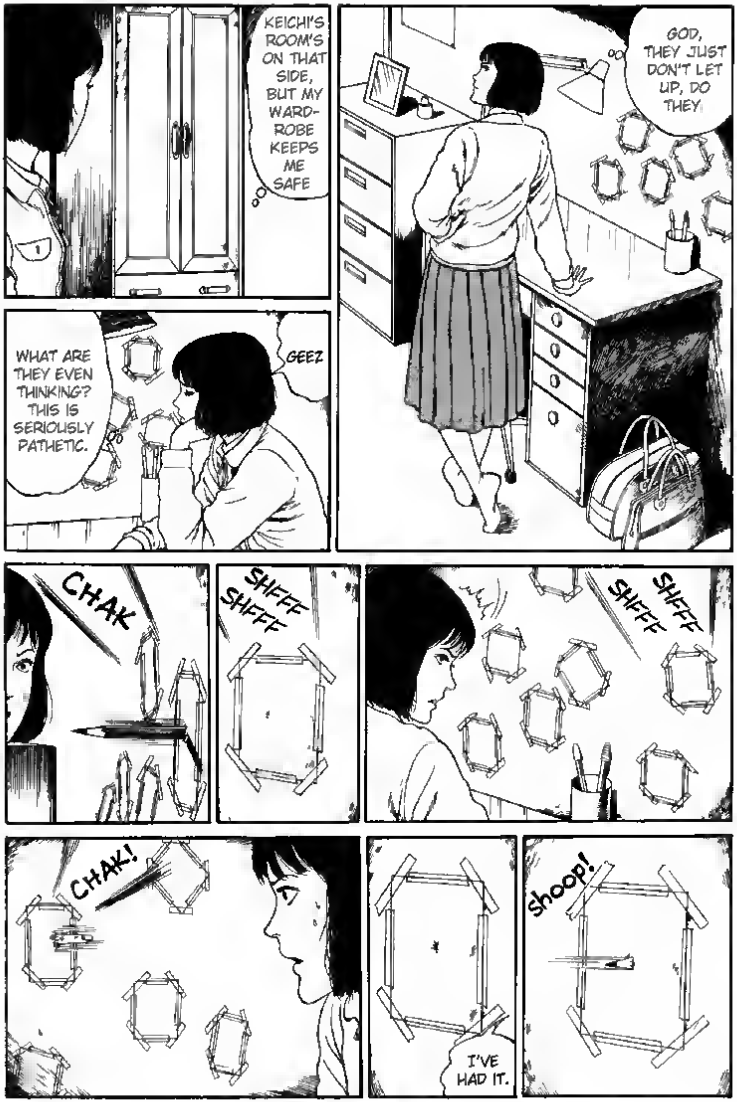
WELL, YEAH! THEY ARE SERIOUSLY STRANGE!
SAIKO, LET ME GUESS. IT'S YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.
THIS CAN'T BE REAL. IT'S JUST WRONG.
Later that year
NO WAY. I'M NEVER GOING BACK TO THAT FAMILY.
SO YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HOLE UP HERE FOREVER?
LOOK, SHOULDN'T YOU AT LEAST TRY TO GO HOME?
TALK IT OVER, MAYBE IT'LL WORK OUT.
HOW LONG'S A LITTLE LONGER? IT'S BEEN A WHOLE WEEK ALREADY. THIS IS HARD ON ME, TOO.
KUMI, PLEASE JUST A LITTLE LONGER. THEN I'LL GO TO YUKA'S, AND BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR.

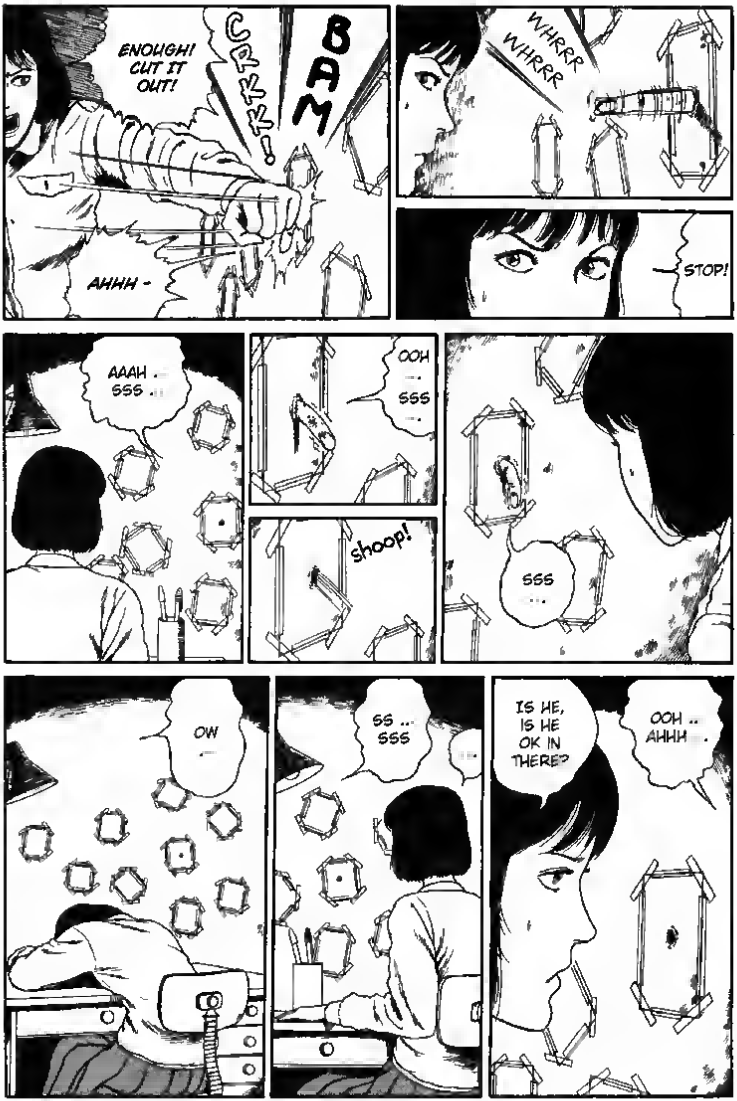
...
WE DON'T HAVE A ROOM FOR YOU, IT'S MINE OR NOTHING. AREN'T YOU SICK OF ...
... BEING TOGETHER CONSTANTLY? OR DOES IT JUST SUCK LESS THAN BEING WITH YOUR FAMILY?
AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD STAY HERE. WE'RE FRIENDS AND ALL, BUT BEING TOGETHER SO LONG JUST ...
SORRY, SAI. DON'T HATE ME
YOU'RE RIGHT I'LL STAY WITH YUKA I'M SORRY, YOU'VE BEEN SO GOOD TO ME
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS, SAIKO.
CLASS TOGETHER ALL DAY, AND THEN PREP SCHOOL .. AT LEAST LET ME SLEEP BY MYSELF, YEAH?
GUESS I'M GOING HOME
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN A GOOD FIX, IF I HADN'T HAD THE SAME DISCUSSION WITH YUKA ALREADY

ARE YOU TRYING TO WORRY YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER TO DEATH HERE?!
IT'S BEEN DAYS AND DAYS!
SAIKO! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF.
ANYWAY. IN THE LIVING ROOM NOW.
YOU'D DO WELL TO BE MORE LIKE THEM!
YOUR BROTHERS ARE SO WELL BEHAVED, WHY IS THEIR SISTER THE ONLY ONE OUT RUNNING WILD?
YEAH! SAI'S A CRIMINAL ESCAPE ARTIST!
I'VE SAID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN! I WANT YOU GUYS TO STOP BEING SO DAMN STRANGE!
LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW!
WHY AREN'T I HAPPY?!
WELL? OUT WITH IT.
WHY AREN'T YOU HAPPY HERE?

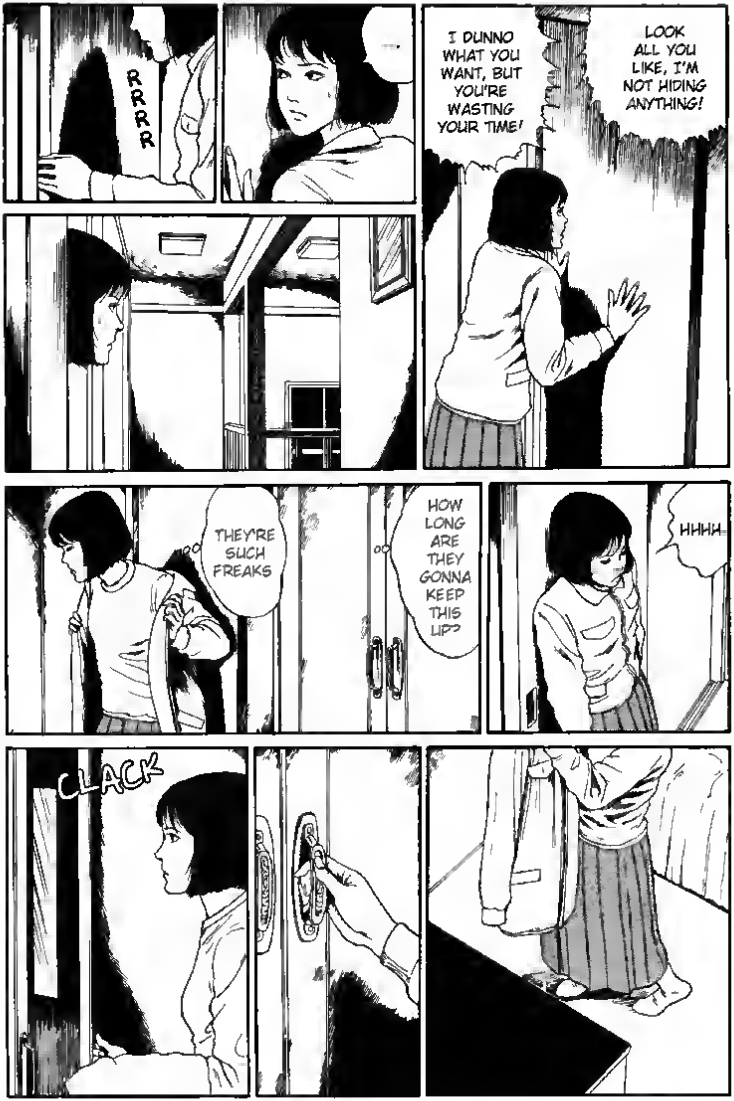
I WANT YOU TO STOP SPYING INTO MY ROOM!
REALLY? WE'RE DOING THIS AGAIN?
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOOK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ANY BOYS! OK?!
WHEN HAS THIS FAMILY EVER ACTED STRANGE TOWARD YOU? ENLIGHTEN US ALL!
STRANGE?
YEAH! YEAH!
WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE?
WHY ON EARTH WOULD WE EVER WANT TO DO THAT?
WE HAVE NOT, YOUNG LADY
I... WHAT?
UHH SNFF..
I - I'M GOING TO BED.
SAIKO... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
YOU USED TO BE SUCH A GOOD GIRL
YOUR ROOM SUCKS, WHY'D WE WANNA LOOK IN THERE?!
YEAH! YEAH!
DON'T PUSH IT
SAIKO. THIS IS JUST YOU BEING OVERLY SELF-CONSCIOUS AGAIN.

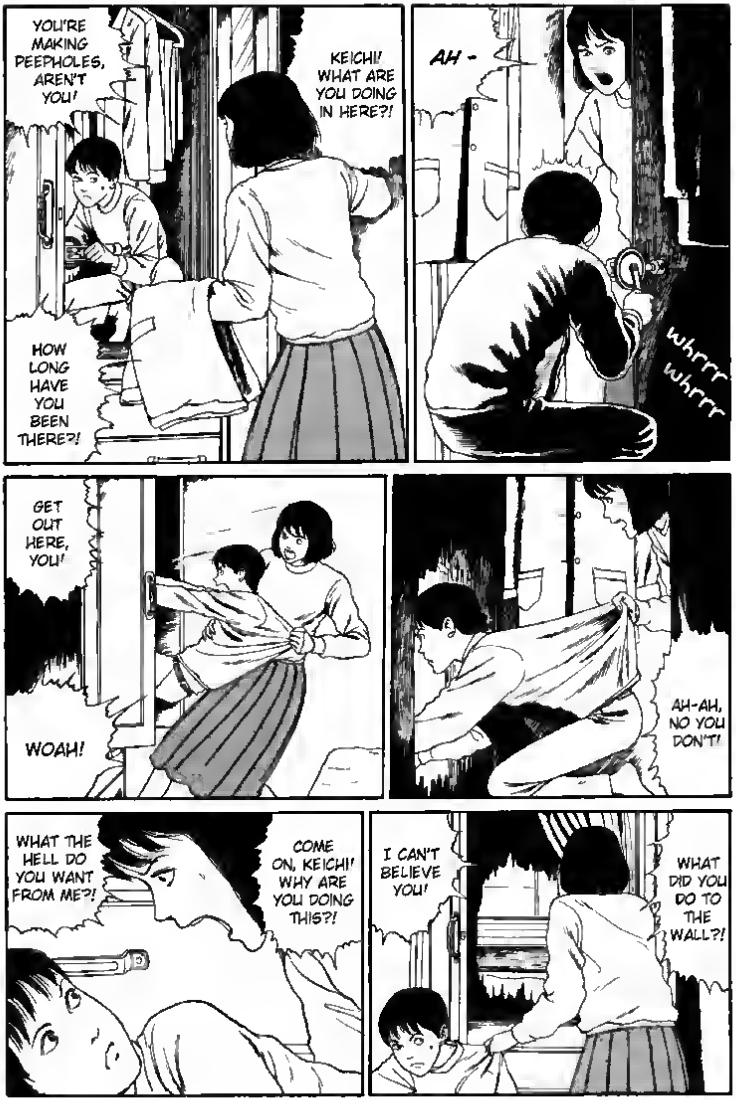

HMPH...
ペタ
IT'S MY BROTHER'S CLOSET ON THE OTHER END, TOO.
KNEW THEY WOULD MAKE ANOTHER NEW PEEPHOLE!

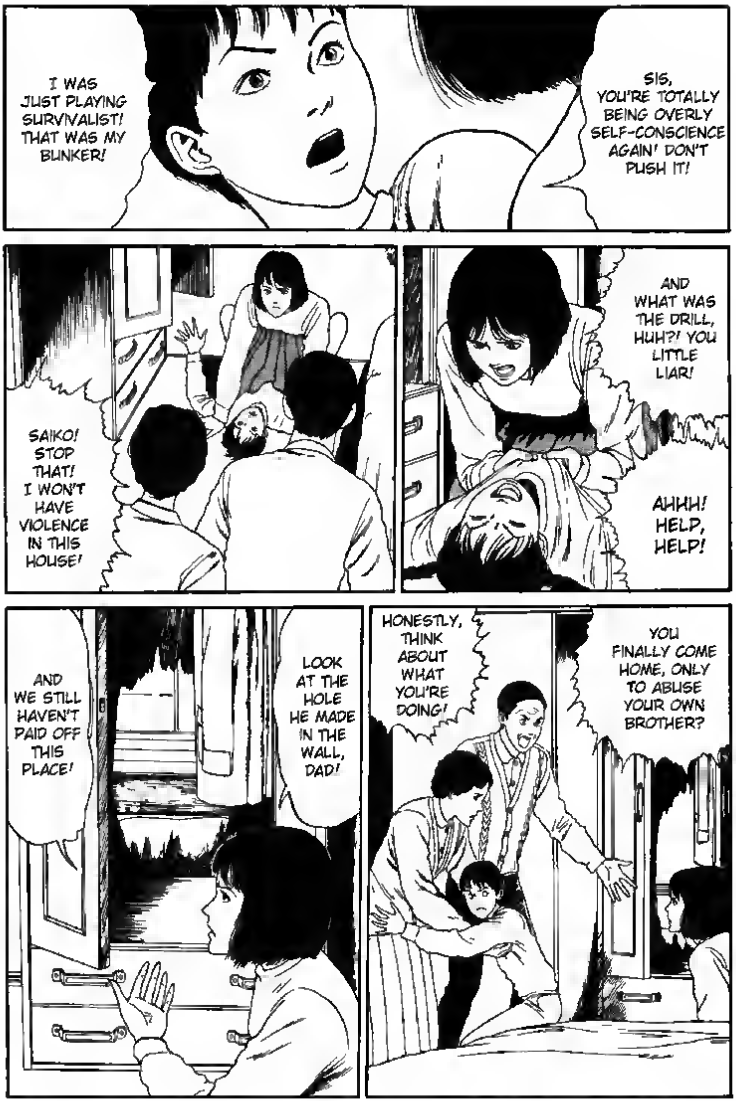

KEICHI'S ROOM'S ON THAT SIDE, BUT MY WARDROBE KEEPS ME SAFE
GOD, THEY JUST DON'T LET UP, DO THEY
GEEZ
WHAT ARE THEY EVEN THINKING? THIS IS SERIOUSLY PATHETIC.
CHAK
SHFFF SHFFF
SHFFF SHFFF
CHAK!
I'VE HAD IT.
Shoop!

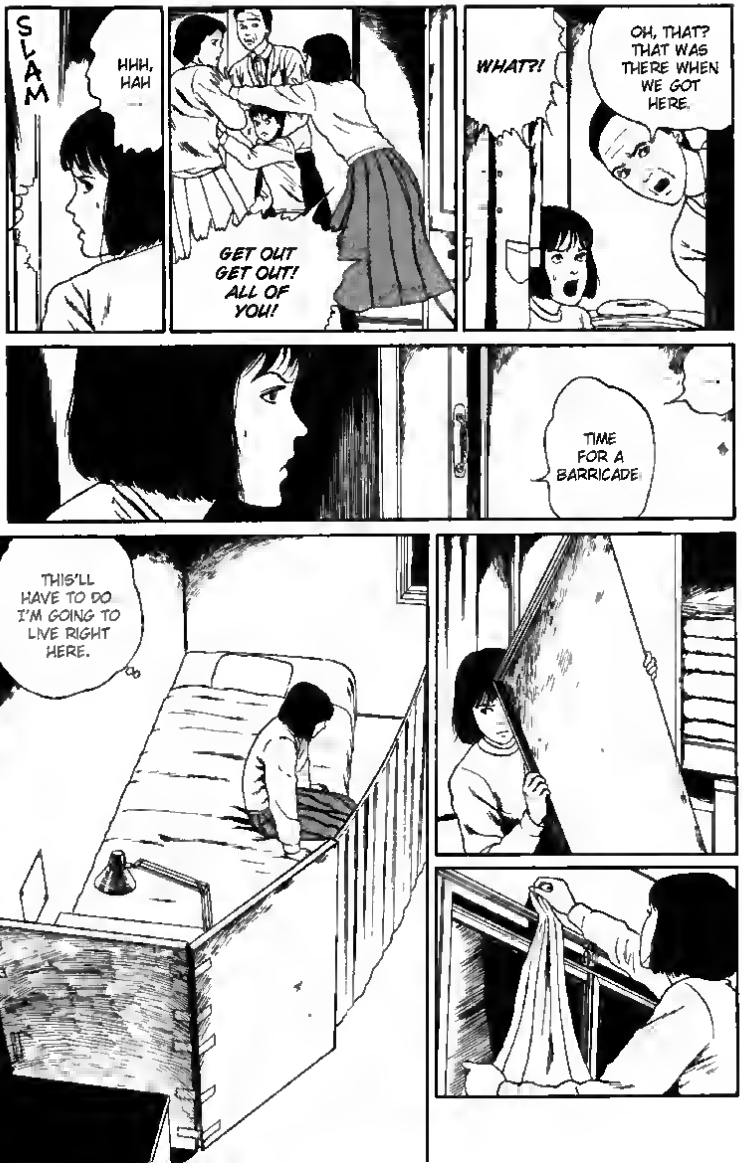

ENOUGH! CUT IT OUT!
CRRKT!
BAM
AHHH -
WHRRR
WHRRR
STOP!
AAAH ..
SSS ..
OOH ..
SSS ..
shoop!
SSS ..
OW ..
SS ..
SSS
IS HE, IS HE OK IN THERE?
OOH .. AHHH .

RRRRR
HEY! MOM, DAD!
I'M RIGHT HERE! I SEE YOU SPYING!
WHAT-EVER ... LOOK ALL YOU LIKE
GOD!
SLAM


RRRR
I DUNNO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME!
LOOK ALL YOU LIKE, I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING!
THEY'RE SUCH FREAKS
HOW LONG ARE THEY GONNA KEEP THIS UP?
HHHH
CLACK


YOU'RE MAKING PEEPHOLES, AREN'T YOU!
KEICHI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?!
AH -
whrrr whrrr
GET OUT HERE, YOU!
WOAH!
AH-AH, NO YOU DON'T!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
COME ON, KEICHI! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE WALL?!


I WAS JUST PLAYING SURVIVALIST! THAT WAS MY BUNKER!
SIS, YOU'RE TOTALLY BEING OVERLY SELF-CONSCIENCE AGAIN! DON'T PUSH IT!
SAIKO! STOP THAT! I WON'T HAVE VIOLENCE IN THIS HOUSE!
AND WHAT WAS THE DRILL, HUH?! YOU LITTLE LIAR!
AHHH! HELP, HELP!
AND WE STILL HAVEN'T PAID OFF THIS PLACE!
LOOK AT THE HOLE HE MADE IN THE WALL, DAD!
HONESTLY, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
YOU FINALLY COME HOME, ONLY TO ABUSE YOUR OWN BROTHER?

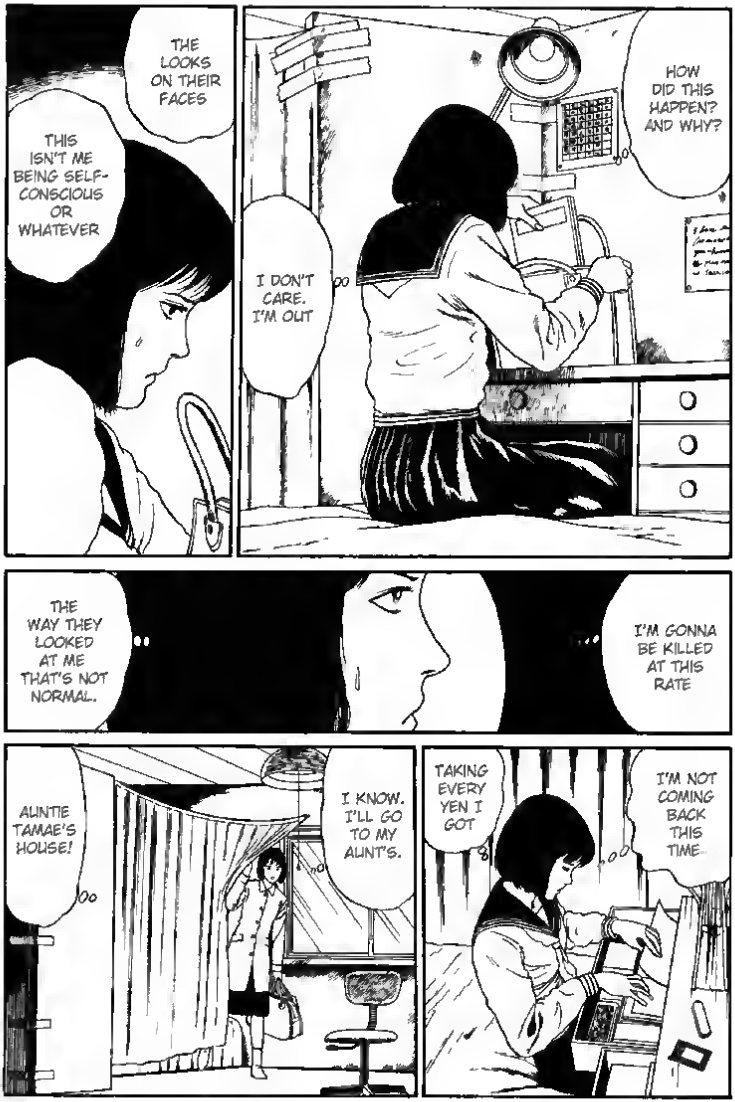

SLAM
HHH, HAH
GET OUT GET OUT! ALL OF YOU!
WHAT?!
OH, THAT? THAT WAS THERE WHEN WE GOT HERE.
TIME FOR A BARRICADE.
THIS'LL HAVE TO DO I'M GOING TO LIVE RIGHT HERE.

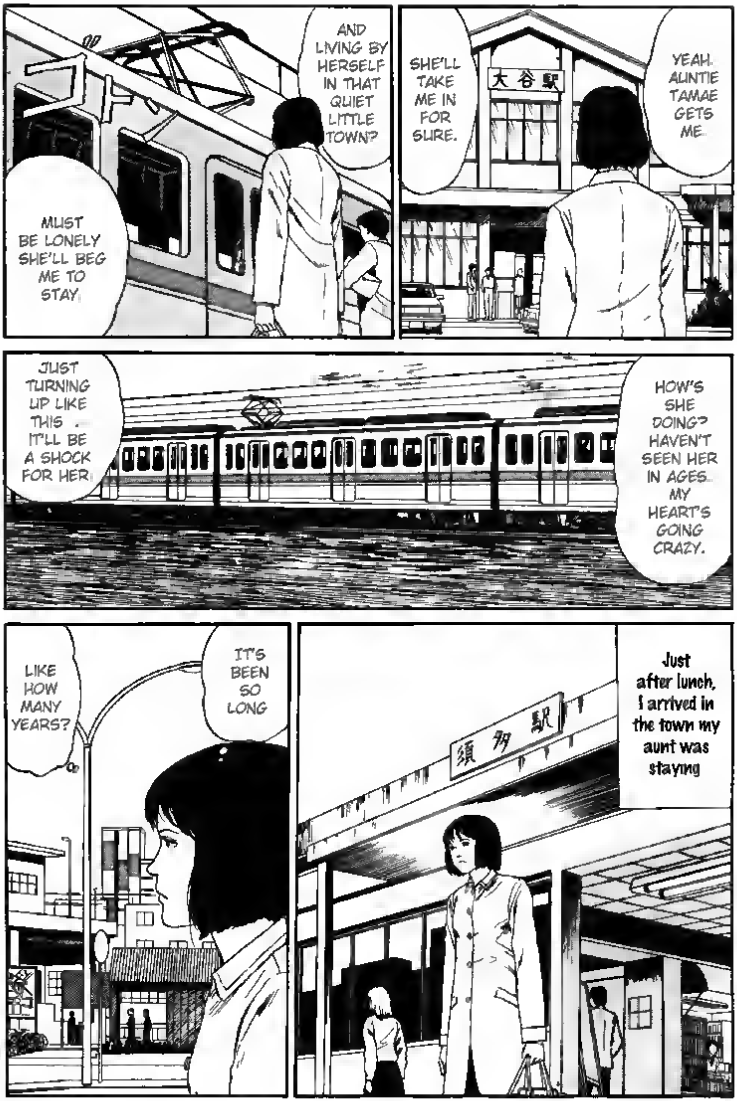
whrrr
HM?
whrrr
whrrr
whrrr
whrrr
whrrr
whrrr
THEY'VE GOTTEN IN THE ATTIC.
I'LL SHOW 'EM
THINK I'M GONNA STAND BY AND TAKE THIS?

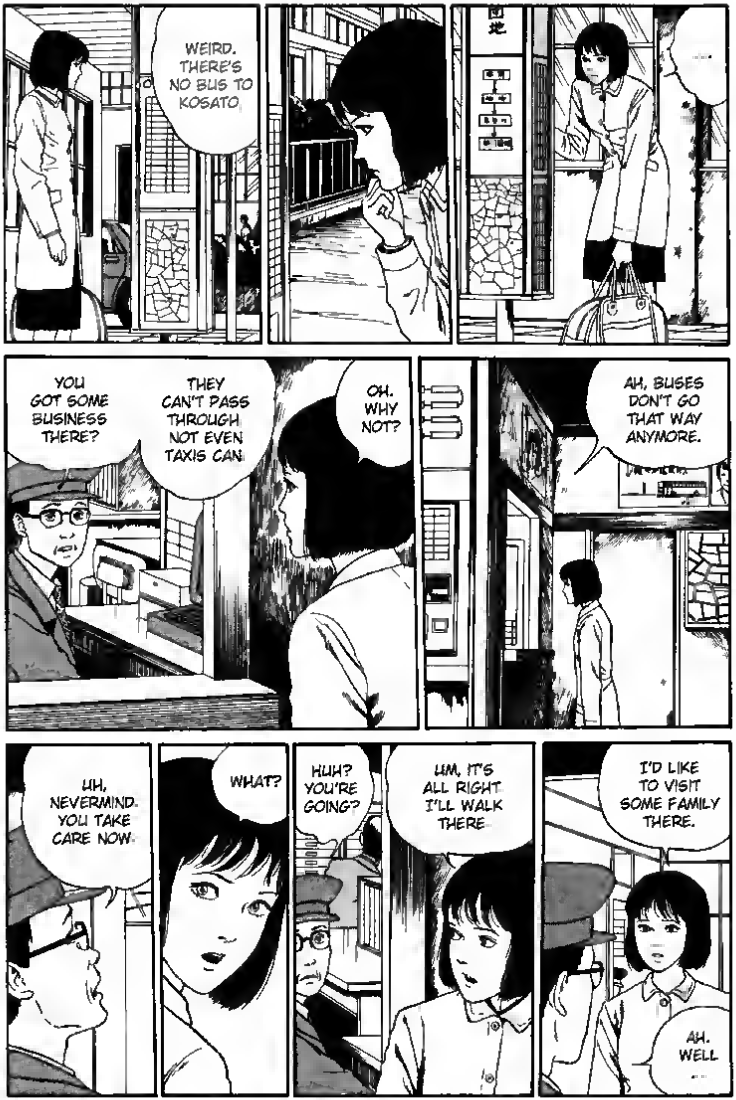
WOOSH
SHRRR
shoop
AAAAHH!
AH -
AHH! AHH! GRA- AGHH!
GAAHHH!
shoop
THAT . . . THAT WASN'T AN EYE, WAS IT?!

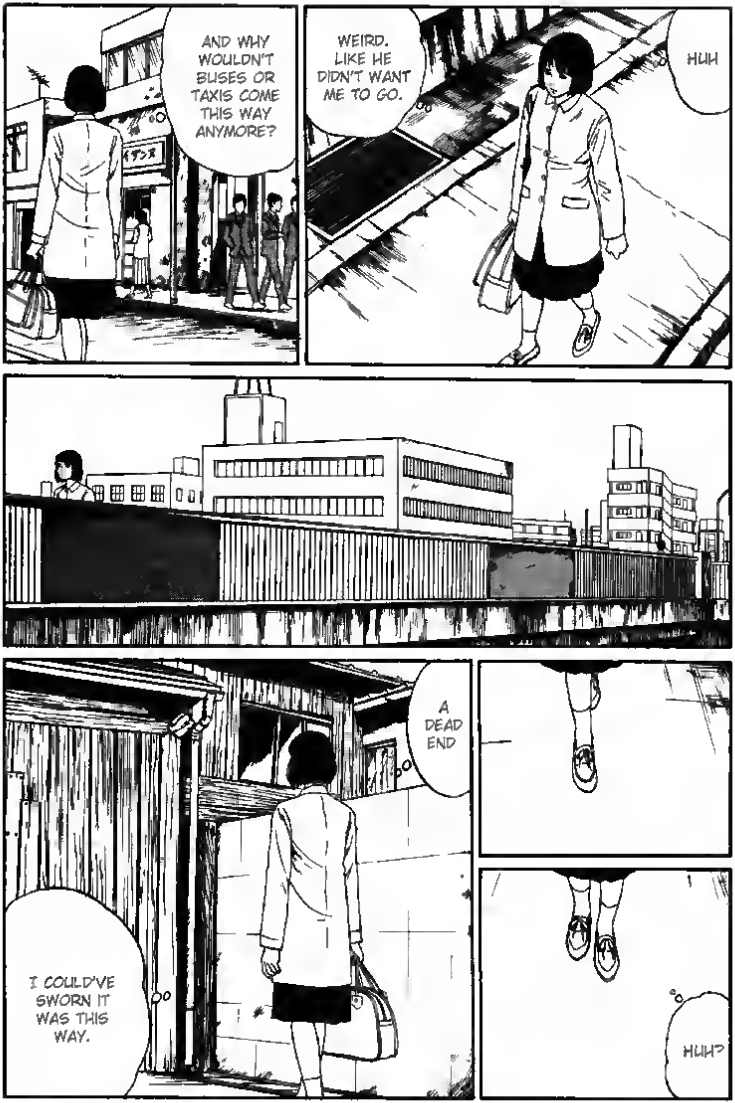
YOUR EYE OK?
キロ
WHAT
DAD?

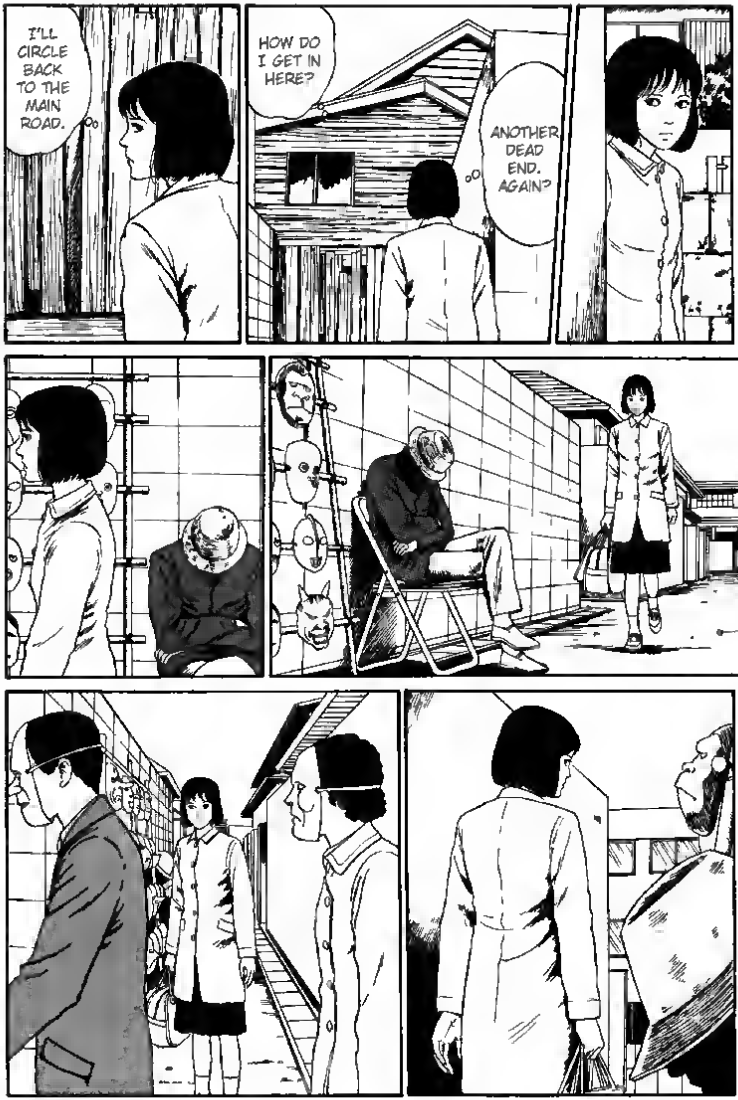
BIT OF AN INFECTION, THAT'S ALL.
OH, THIS. IT'S NOTHING REALLY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO IT WASN'T ME?
OH
NOTHIN' TO DO WITH YOU.
I SPRAINED MY FINGER IN P E YESTERDAY.
SORRY, LAST NIGHT, I JUST
AND HEY. HOW'S YOUR FINGER?


THE LOOKS ON THEIR FACES
THIS ISN'T ME BEING SELF-CONSCIOUS OR WHATEVER
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN? AND WHY?
I DON'T CARE. I'M OUT
THE WAY THEY LOOKED AT ME THAT'S NOT NORMAL.
I'M GONNA BE KILLED AT THIS RATE
AUNTIE TAMAE'S HOUSE!
I KNOW. I'LL GO TO MY AUNT'S.
TAKING EVERY YEN I GOT
I'M NOT COMING BACK THIS TIME.


AND LIVING BY HERSELF IN THAT QUIET LITTLE TOWN?
MUST BE LONELY SHE'LL BEG ME TO STAY.
SHE'LL TAKE ME IN FOR SURE.
大谷駅
YEAH. AUNTIE TAMAE GETS ME.
JUST TURNING UP LIKE THIS . . . IT'LL BE A SHOCK FOR HER.
HOW'S SHE DOING? HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN AGES. MY HEART'S GOING CRAZY.
LIKE HOW MANY YEARS?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
須羽駅
Just after lunch, I arrived in the town my aunt was staying

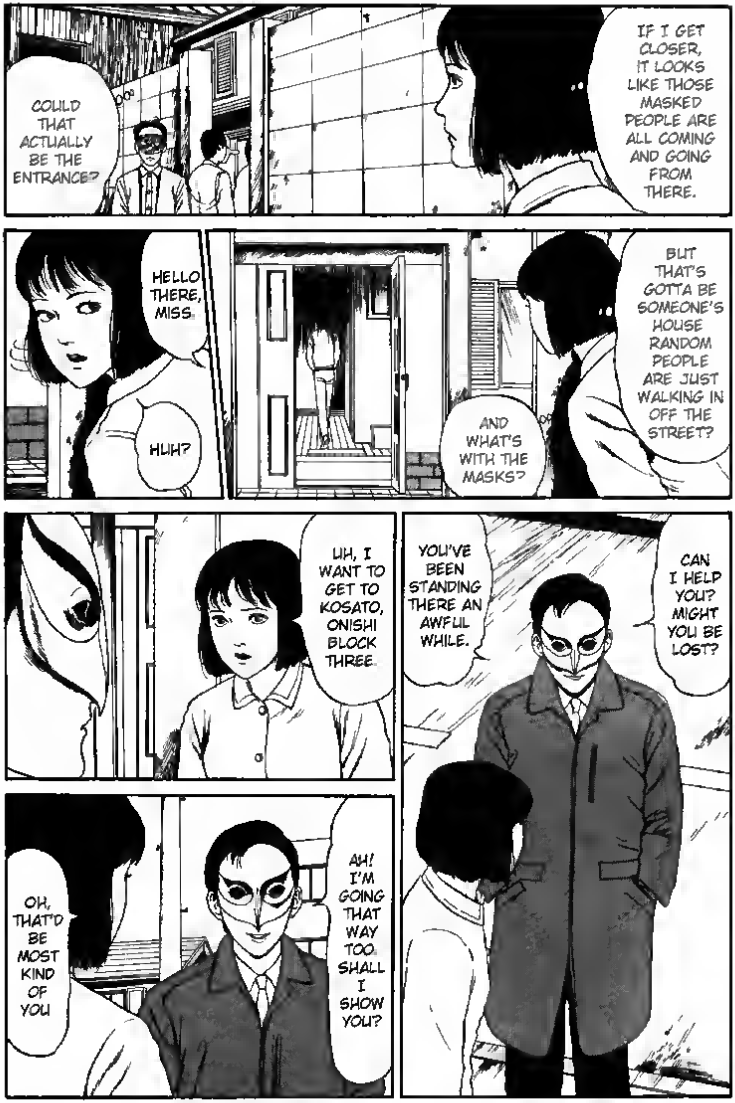

WEIRD. THERE'S NO BUS TO KOSATO.
AH, BUSES DON'T GO THAT WAY ANYMORE.
OH. WHY NOT?
THEY CAN'T PASS THROUGH NOT EVEN TAXIS CAN.
YOU GOT SOME BUSINESS THERE?
I'D LIKE TO VISIT SOME FAMILY THERE.
UM, IT'S ALL RIGHT I'LL WALK THERE.
HUH? YOU'RE GOING?
WHAT?
UH, NEVERMIND. YOU TAKE CARE NOW.
AH. WELL...


AND WHY WOULDN'T BUSES OR TAXIS COME THIS WAY ANYMORE?
WEIRD. LIKE HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO.
HUH
A DEAD END
I COULD'VE SWORN IT WAS THIS WAY.
HUH?


I'LL CIRCLE BACK TO THE MAIN ROAD.
HOW DO I GET IN HERE?
ANOTHER DEAD END. AGAIN?

AH -
40
EVEN THE MAIN ROAD'S BLOCKED OFF BY BUILDINGS.
WHAT THE . WHAT IS WITH THIS PLACE?

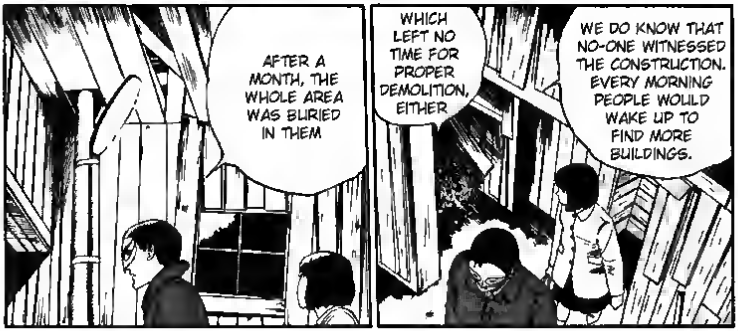
IF YOU GET LOST AGAIN, JUST ASK SOMEONE.
AH, I WOULDN'T KNOW FROM JUST THAT. I BET IT'S IN THERE SOMEWHERE.
UM, I WANT TO GET TO KOSATO, ONISHI BLOCK THREE. WHERE DO I GO?
YES?
SORRY, COULD I ASK
IN THERE? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
DOES HE MEAN OVER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BUILDING?
SORRY. LOTS TO DO.
LOOKS LIKE THERE WERE PEOPLE'S HOUSES HERE, BUT THIS WEIRD STUFF'S BEEN BUILT OVER THEM. HOW DO YOU GET IN?
WEIRD. IT'S LIKE KOSATO IS BLOCKED OFF BY THIS PLACE. IS THIS THE BERLIN WALL OR SOMETHING?

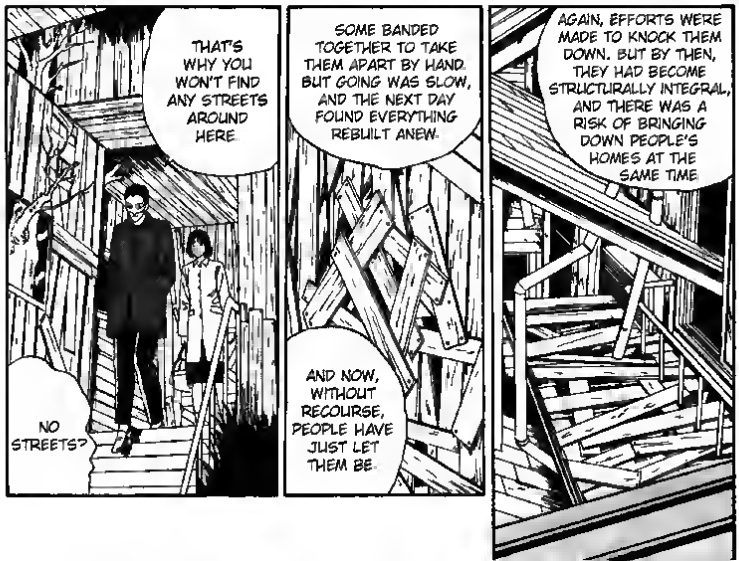

IF I GET CLOSER, IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE MASKED PEOPLE ARE ALL COMING AND GOING FROM THERE.
COULD THAT ACTUALLY BE THE ENTRANCE?
BUT THAT'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE'S HOUSE RANDOM PEOPLE ARE JUST WALKING IN OFF THE STREET?
AND WHAT'S WITH THE MASKS?
HELLO THERE, MISS.
HUH?
CAN I HELP YOU? MIGHT YOU BE LOST?
YOU'VE BEEN STANDING THERE AN AWFUL WHILE.
UH, I WANT TO GET TO KOSATO, ONISHI BLOCK THREE.
AH! I'M GOING THAT WAY TOO. SHALL I SHOW YOU?
OH, THAT'D BE MOST KIND OF YOU

COME ALONG, THEN!
HAHA, NOBODY TAKES OFF THEIR SHOES ANYMORE. NOT EVEN FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES
UM, CAN I REALLY JUST LEAVE MY SHOES ON?
SO THIS WAS THE WAY IN.

We left by the back door.
HERE WE ARE!
UM, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
IF IT PLEASES YOU
No sooner had we left, we had entered another building.
In any other place, there would've been a yard.
ALL I CAN SAY IS THIS.
AFRAID I CAN'T HELP WITH THAT ONE.
THESE HOUSES ARE IN VIOLATION OF EVERY BUILDING CODE. IT'S SAID THAT THEY WERE ALL BUILT IN A SINGLE MONTH, LAST FEBRUARY.
THERE WAS NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WHAT IS THIS BUILDING? WHY WOULD THEY MAKE IT THIS WAY?

MMM, WHO INDEED.
WOW... SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHO BUILT THEM? WHO EVEN COULD HAVE?

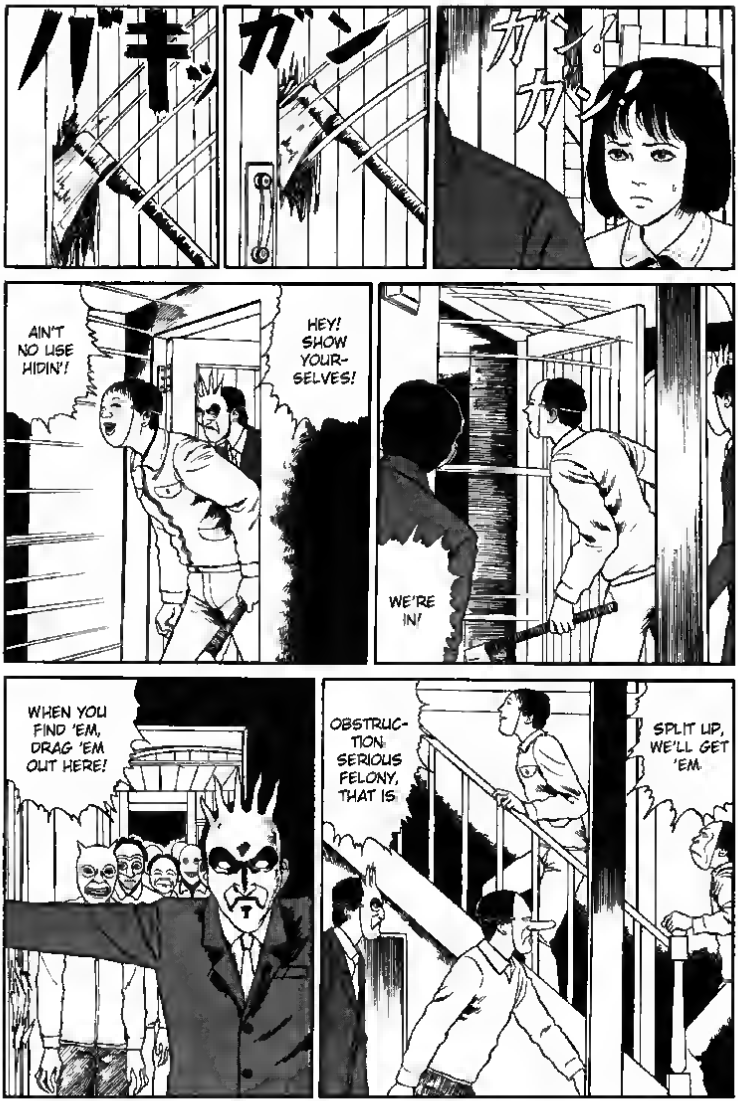

AFTER A MONTH, THE WHOLE AREA WAS BURIED IN THEM.
WHICH LEFT NO TIME FOR PROPER DEMOLITION, EITHER.
WE DO KNOW THAT NO-ONE WITNESSED THE CONSTRUCTION. EVERY MORNING PEOPLE WOULD WAKE UP TO FIND MORE BUILDINGS.


NO STREETS?
THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T FIND ANY STREETS AROUND HERE.
AND NOW, WITHOUT RECOURSE, PEOPLE HAVE JUST LET THEM BE.
SOME BANDED TOGETHER TO TAKE THEM APART BY HAND. BUT GOING WAS SLOW, AND THE NEXT DAY FOUND EVERYTHING REBUILT ANEW.
AGAIN, EFFORTS WERE MADE TO KNOCK THEM DOWN. BUT BY THEN, THEY HAD BECOME STRUCTURALLY INTEGRAL, AND THERE WAS A RISK OF BRINGING DOWN PEOPLE'S HOMES AT THE SAME TIME.

BUT THERE AREN'T MANY ENTRANCES OR EXITS. SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO CROSS THROUGH PEOPLE'S HOMES.
TO GET WHERE WE WANT TO GO, WE MOVE BETWEEN THESE BUILDINGS, ROOM BY ROOM.
COMING FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE TO SQUAT HERE.
RECENTLY, WE'VE SEEN A RISING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ACTUALLY LIVING IN THE OFFENDING BUILDINGS.

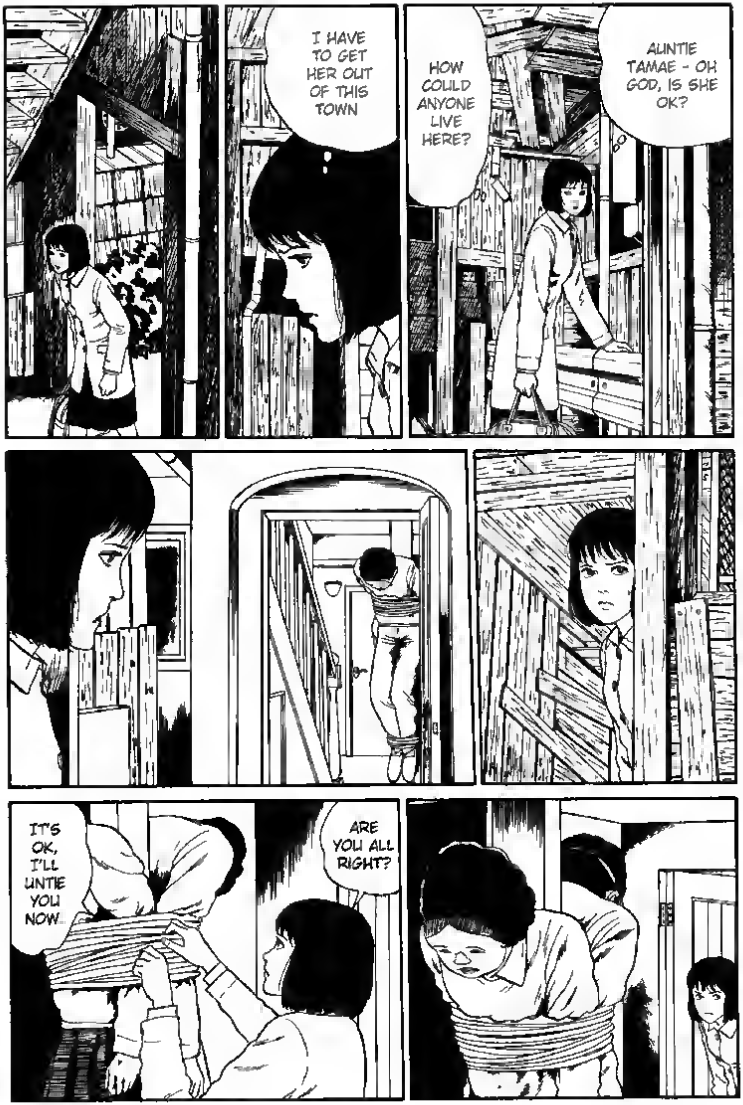
RIGHT IN THE HEART OF IT.
OH, THEY DON'T STOP WHERE YOU'RE HEADED, ONISHI! BLOCK THREE, IS TOTALLY SWALLOWED UP.
SO... HOW FAR DO THESE BUILDINGS GO ON?
カヤガヤ
?
ザーッ
ISUZU
98-30
ガヤガヤ
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE?
ガヤガヤ

IS THERE NO OTHER WAY?
THERE IS, BUT IT'S A HELL OF A DETOUR.
SUCH A PAIN.
THE FOLKS LIVIN' IN THERE HAVE LOCKED UP THEIR DOORS.
ドンドン
YOU'RE ASKIN' FOR IT!
I SAID OPEN IT!
ドンドン
HEY! OPEN UP!
WE'LL BREAK IT DOWN.
OUT THE WAY.
HRGHH


バキッ
ガン
ガン!
ガン!
HEY! SHOW YOUR-SELVES!
AIN'T NO USE HIDIN'!
WE'RE IN!
SPLIT UP, WE'LL GET 'EM.
OBSTRUC-TION. SERIOUS FELONY, THAT IS.
WHEN YOU FIND 'EM, DRAG 'EM OUT HERE!

NO! HELP!
GOT 'EM
COME ALONG!
HEEELP!
TWO LITTLE PIGGIES.
NOOOO!
TIE 'EM UP!
GOOD NOW TO MAKE SURE.
I'M SORRY! WE WON'T DO IT AGAIN!
IT'S SELFISH LITTLE SWINE LIKE YOU RUINING THE WHOLE TOWN!

YOU THINK YOU CAN BE TRUSTED EVER AGAIN?
AAAAHHH!
WE'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN! I SWEAR!
NOOOO!
HHH, HAH ..
AAAHHH, PLEASE!
GAH ..
NGH, HHH -
I had to run for it.
It was all I could stand


I HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF THIS TOWN
HOW COULD ANYONE LIVE HERE?
AUNTIE TAMAE - OH GOD, IS SHE OK?
IT'S OK, I'LL UNTIE YOU NOW...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

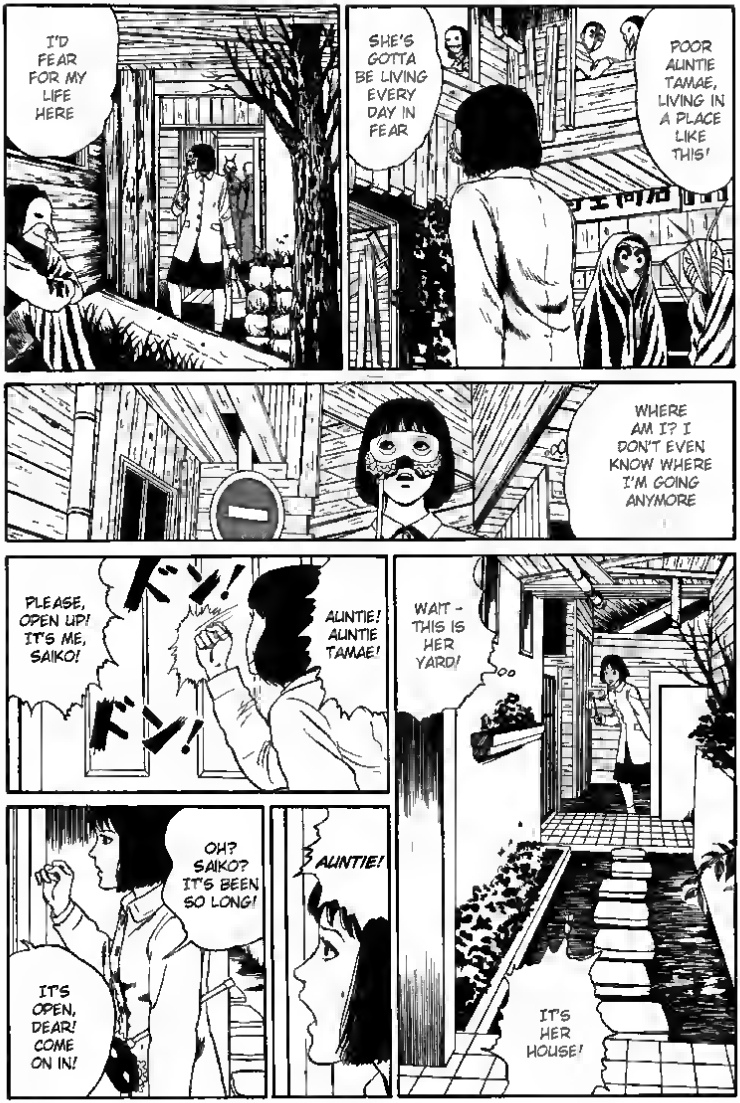
DOES THIS KIND OF THING HAPPEN A LOT?
YOU'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE, ARE YOU.
OH, THANK YOU SO MUCH.
IT'S BEEN GETTING WORSE.
THIS TOWN'S BEEN GETTING MORE AND MORE RESTLESS
THE ... WHAT?
BUT IT'S THE PRIVACY CRISIS MORE THAN ANY-THING
PART OF IT WAS HOW HARD IT IS TO GET AROUND NOW THE STREETS ARE GONE
AND NOW WE HAVE NO SPACE LEFT TO OURSELVES. AND IT'S WEARING ON US.
THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN HAVE OPENED THEIR DOORS TO ALLOW OTHERS PASSAGE.

AND OUT OF RESPECT FOR PASSERS-BY
WE STARTED WEARING THESE MASKS TO PRESERVE SOME KIND OF PRIVACY.
BUT IT'S STILL FAR FROM A SOLUTION.
WELL, THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW WHO HAVE.
WHY NOT JUST MOVE AWAY FROM HERE?
THAT'S WHEN WE STARTED TO WORRY. WHEN WE LOCKED OUR DOORS.
AND THEN THERE ARE THE STRANGE ONES THAT HAVE SETTLED HERE RECENTLY.
YOU'LL COME TO A RIVER. CROSS THE BRIDGE AND YOU'RE JUST ABOUT THERE.
AH. YOU NEED TO HEAD THAT WAY. IT'S STILL FAR.
WELL. I CAME TO VISIT MY AUNT.
BUT WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MISS?
...WHY?
BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE SAFE OVER THERE?
SHE LIVES IN ONISHI BLOCK THREE. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THAT IS?

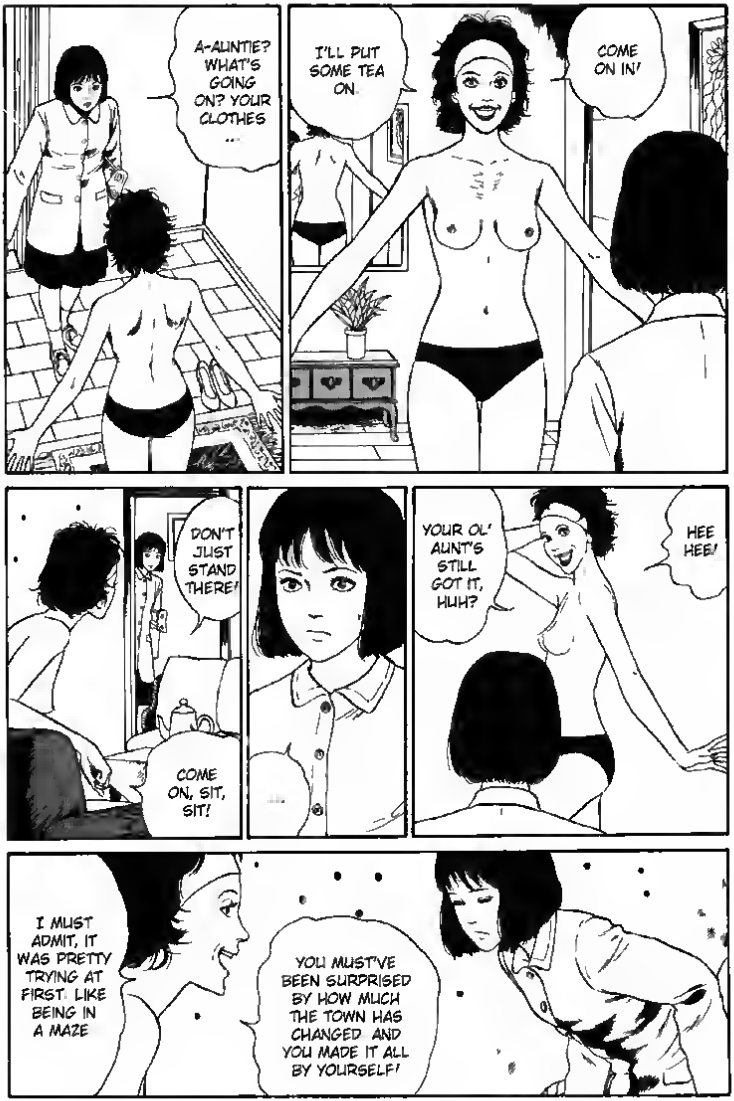
PLUS THE CRIMES IN THE AREA STABBINGS AND SUCH.
THE STRANGE ONES?
THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE STRANGE ONES ARE CONCENTRATING IN THAT AREA
YES. PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THEM HAVE SAID THEY DON'T EVEN LOOK HUMAN.
BUT THEN . .
... IF THAT'S TRUE, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY AUNT THERE!
STAB-BINGS ...?
I'M SO SCARED I WON'T GO NEAR THE PLACE
AND IF YOU CAN AVOID IT, NOR SHOULD YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN SO NICE THANK YOU . .
THERE SOMEONE FROM THE MOB MUST HAVE DROPPED IT
IF YOU'RE SET ON GOING, MISS . . AT LEAST WEAR A MASK

大森歯科
THIS IS THE RIVER HER HOUSE CAN'T BE FAR
WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE, IT'S LIKE A SEWER

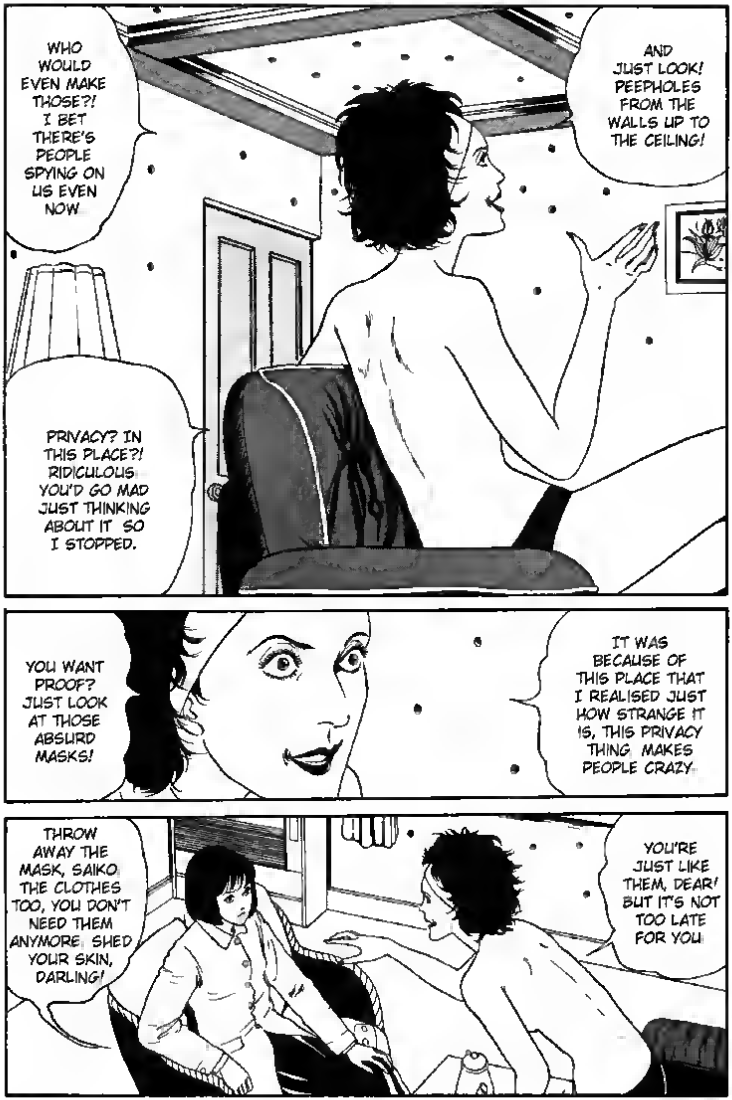
THIS IS GIVING ME THE CREEPS
A HEH HEH HEH
PSST PSST


I'D FEAR FOR MY LIFE HERE
SHE'S GOTTA BE LIVING EVERY DAY IN FEAR
POOR AUNTIE TAMAE, LIVING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!
WHERE AM I? I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I'M GOING ANYMORE
PLEASE, OPEN UP! IT'S ME, SAIKO!
ドン!
ドン!
AUNTIE! AUNTIE TAMAE!
WAIT - THIS IS HER YARD!
OH? SAIKO? IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
IT'S OPEN, DEAR! COME ON IN!
AUNTIE!
IT'S HER HOUSE!

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
SAIKO, DARLING!
ALIN -
ガチャッ


A-AUNTIE? WHAT'S GOING ON? YOUR CLOTHES ...
I'LL PUT SOME TEA ON.
COME ON IN!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
COME ON, SIT, SIT!
YOUR OL' AUNT'S STILL GOT IT, HUH?
HEE HEE!
I MUST ADMIT, IT WAS PRETTY TRYING AT FIRST. LIKE BEING IN A MAZE
YOU MUST'VE BEEN SURPRISED BY HOW MUCH THE TOWN HAS CHANGED AND YOU MADE IT ALL BY YOURSELF!

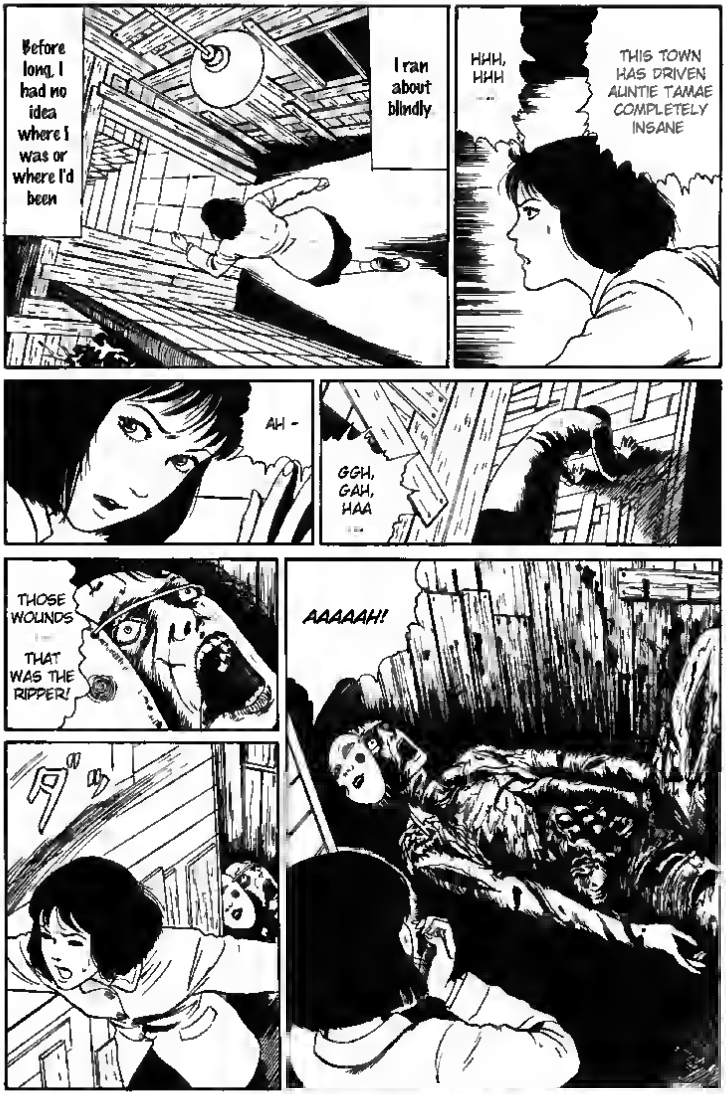
FOR ME?
OF COURSE! LIVING IN A DANGEROUS PLACE ALL BY YOURSELF!
IT WAS AWFUL GETTING HERE. I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, I LOOKED ALL OVER...
GOD, PUT SOME-THING ON!
HEE HEE HEE!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?! AND SERIOUSLY, WHAT'S WITH THE...
A HA HA HA!
BUT THEN THEY BROKE THE LOCKS, AND PEOPLE WERE CLIMBING IN THE WINDOW FROM THE ROOF ANYWAY...
I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST, TOO. EVERYTHING ABOUT ME RESISTED THIS TOWN.
LOCKED MY DOORS, HOLED UP UPSTAIRS BY MYSELF...
AH HA HA I'M SORRY DEAR. I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING


WHO WOULD EVEN MAKE THOSE?! I BET THERE'S PEOPLE SPYING ON US EVEN NOW.
AND JUST LOOK! PEEPHOLES FROM THE WALLS UP TO THE CEILING!
PRIVACY? IN THIS PLACE?! RIDICULOUS. YOU'D GO MAD JUST THINKING ABOUT IT. SO I STOPPED.
YOU WANT PROOF? JUST LOOK AT THOSE ABSURD MASKS!
IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS PLACE THAT I REALISED JUST HOW STRANGE IT IS, THIS PRIVACY THING. MAKES PEOPLE CRAZY.
THROW AWAY THE MASK, SAIKO. THE CLOTHES TOO, YOU DON'T NEED THEM ANYMORE. SHED YOUR SKIN, DARLING!
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THEM, DEAR! BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU.

HUH? WHAT IS! YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S ALL WRONG, DEAR
AUNTIE ... THIS IS WRONG JUST WRONG!
NOW LET'S GET THOSE SILLY CLOTHES OFF YOU.
I DON'T REMEMBER YOU BEING LIKE THIS, AUNTIE
I ...
I'M TRYING TO BECOME MORE! A BETTER CLASS OF PERSON!
OH, DIDN'T I TELL YOU? I'VE ALREADY SHED MY SKIN.
HA HA, WELL FIRST, LET'S EAT. YOU LIKE APPLES?
HEY, HOW YA DOING?
HEY
AUNTIE .. THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
ジョリ ジョリ
EVEN APPLES SHED THEIR SKIN, DEAR.
ジョリ ジョリ

AND THERE ARE STRANGE PEOPLE HERE, AND THEY SAY THERE'S STABBINGS, AND ...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG YOU DON'T SEE HOW WEIRD YOU'VE GOTTEN!
YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU.
スッ
YOU TOLD ME YOU NO LONGER NEED PRIVACY, BUT ...
... WITHOUT IT, YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, AUNTIE!
AND IF YOU WON'T, I'LL DO IT FOR YOU!
I WON'T BE LECTURED FURTHER BY YOU, CHILD. YOU'RE TO UNDRESS YOURSELF AT ONCE.

SOMEONE STOP THAT GIRL!
SAIKO! WAIT!
A BIT OF THIS, AND THEY'LL RIP RIGHT OFF!
AUNTIE!
!


Before long, I had no idea where I was or where I'd been
I ran about blindly
HHH, HHH
THIS TOWN HAS DRIVEN AUNTIE TAMAE COMPLETELY INSANE
AH -
GGH, GAH, HAA
THOSE WOUNDS
THAT WAS THE RIPPER!
AAAAAH!
ダッ

AHH, HHH...
WHAT... THE HELL?!
THERE'S SOME WEIRDO PEEPING THROUGH THE WALL...

AH -
AHHH!
NO,
NO,
NO!

OH!
AH!
NGH .. HHH ..
I WANT TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!
PLEASE - SHOW ME HOW TO GET OUT OF HERE!
OH, IT'S YOU ..
I WAS TO HAVE BEEN YOUR GUIDE
YOU'RE THE YOUNG LADY FROM BEFORE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU ...
LET US LEAVE, THEN. STAY CLOSE.
THE STRANGE ONES LURK AROUND EVERY CORNER
YES, I SHOULD THINK SO. YOU ARE IN DANGER HERE

UM WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
ザー
ザー
OBSERVE THE ILLEGAL CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES OVER OUR HEADS
QUITE A SIGHT, YOU'LL AGREE.
HEE HEE!
IT'S THE RIVER

THA
THAT RING
IT'S YOURS. A GIFT.
OH, ALL RIGHT THEN.
SOME-THING THE MATTER WITH THIS RING?
WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU.
MIGHT YOU REMEMBER ME, MISS?
NOW I GET THE FEELING WE'VE MET SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
HOW STRANGE. A PERFECT FIT FOR YOUR FINGER

AH -
MAYBE YOU REMEMBER ME NOW...
IT'S YOU!
JACK THE RIPPER!
OH, OF COURSE YOU'RE
HEE!
YOU! YOU KILLED KISHIMOTO, DIDN'T YOU!
HEE HEE HEE AND HOW MIGHT YOU KNOW THAT NAME?

THOUGH IT WAS YOUR BOYFRIEND WHO BROKE IN FIRST, I MUST SAY.
HE WAS BABBLING AWAY LIKE HE WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN. HEE HEE!
... THE SLEEPING BEAUTY WHOSE ROOM I BROKE INTO THAT NIGHT.
IF HE HADN'T BEEN THERE, I WOULDA DONE YOU INSTEAD.
YOU OWE YOUR BOY SOME THANKS.
... WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
HNGH -
HEE HEE HEE!
HEE HEE... AND THIS TIME, IT'S YOU.
I JUST GET SO ANGRY, IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN CALM DOWN. ANYONE WILL DO.

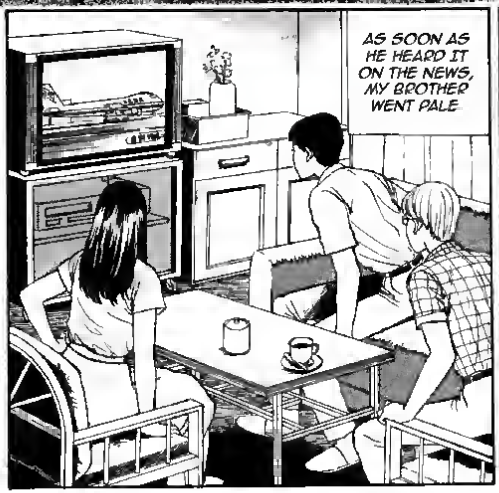
ざっ
AUNTIE TAMAE
TAKE YOU RIGHT OUT OF HERE.
FOLLOW THE RIVER UP-STREAM

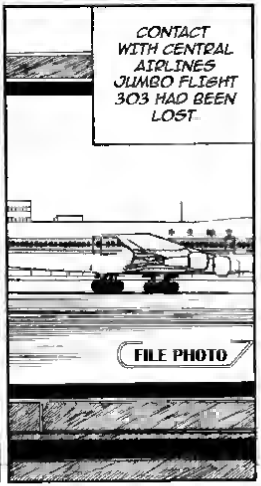
THE END

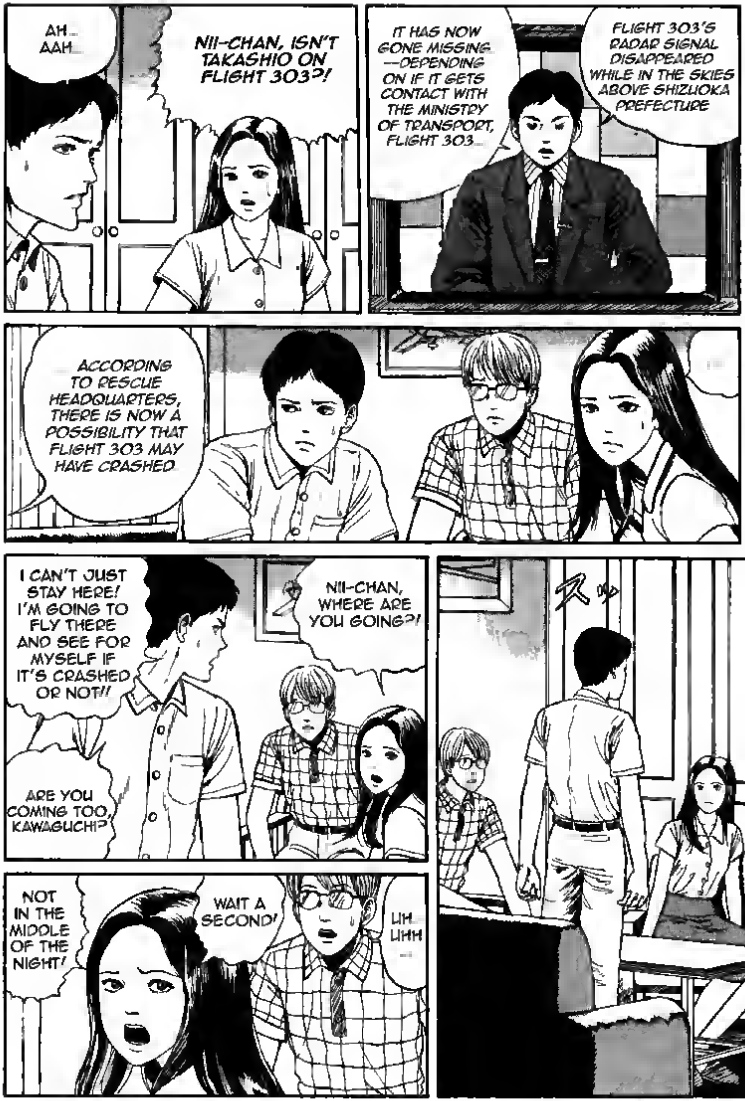
Near Miss!

JUNJI ITO

TRANSLATOR: BSUMALITY
CLEANER/TYPESETTER: SPIRAPHOBIA
PROOFREADER: DEEDELY
SLUE-CHICKS.BLOGSPOT.COM






AH... AAH...
NII-CHAN, ISN'T TAKASHIO ON FLIGHT 303?!
IT HAS NOW GONE MISSING —DEPENDING ON IF IT GETS CONTACT WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT, FLIGHT 303...
FLIGHT 303'S RADAR SIGNAL DISAPPEARED WHILE IN THE SKIES ABOVE SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE
ACCORDING TO RESCUE HEADQUARTERS, THERE IS NOW A POSSIBILITY THAT FLIGHT 303 MAY HAVE CRASHED
I CAN'T JUST STAY HERE! I'M GOING TO FLY THERE AND SEE FOR MYSELF IF IT'S CRASHED OR NOT!!
NII-CHAN, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
ARE YOU COMING TOO, KAWAGUCHI?
NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
WAIT A SECOND!
UH... UHH...

VROOOOOOOM
I NEVER THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
A LONG TIME AGO, MY UNIVERSITY CLASSMATES KAWAGUCHI, TAKASHIO AND I... WE PROMISED TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN AND TALK ALL NIGHT, BUT...
...AND THIS FLIGHT WAS A LITTLE RASH. WE'RE TOTALLY IN THE DARK AND DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO WE?
THAT'S RIGHT, NII-CHAN...
DIDN'T WE ALL DECIDE TO MEET HERE TOGETHER?
KONISHI! DON'T SAY THAT!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO TAKASHIO, IT'S MY FAULT... I WAS THE ONE WHO INVITED HIM TO COME HERE

WE JUST HAVEN'T COME ACROSS ANY OF IT YET
BUT IF THE PLANE DID CRASH, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE THE FLAMES
BUT THAT'S WHAT THE SEARCH PARTY IS FOR!
VROOOOOOM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAWAGUCHI?
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING UNPLEASANT
YEAH... KONISHI... LET'S GO BACK...
NO... I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT AT A TIME LIKE THIS...
I'LL TELL YOU...
OKAY...
IF YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING, YOU'LL STILL BE ANXIOUS
JUST TELL ME!
BUT...
WHAT IS IT... YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU? TELL ME...

I WAS ONCE AN EYE-WITNESS TO THE SITE OF A PLANE CRASH
IT WAS WHEN I WAS HIKING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS WITH MY CO-WORKERS
A SMALL TWO-MOTOR PLANE FLYING BEHIND US TO THE LEFT SUDDENLY STALLED AND CRASHED INTO THE WOODS IN FRONT OF US
WE HURRIED TOWARDS THE SITE
IT WAS A HORRIBLE SCENE THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS FOUND
THE DAMAGE TO THE CORPSES WAS BRUTAL
IT WAS AN UNTHINK-ABLE SITUATION TO FIND OURSELVES IN.
BEFORE LONG, THE LOCAL FIRE BRIGADE ARRIVED AND BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR THE REMAINS
KAWA-GUCHI ARE YOU OKAY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

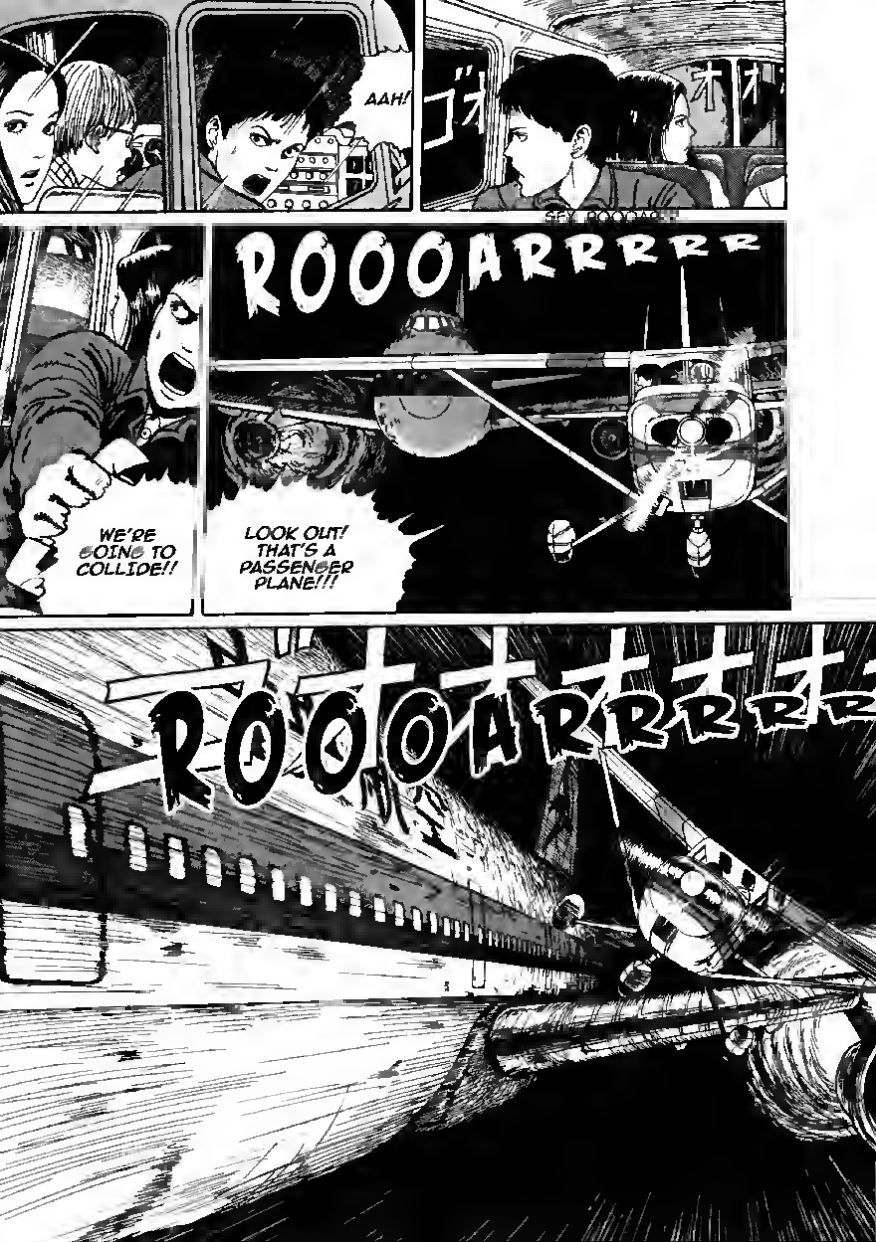
I'M SORRY. I FORCED YOU TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I'LL BE FINE

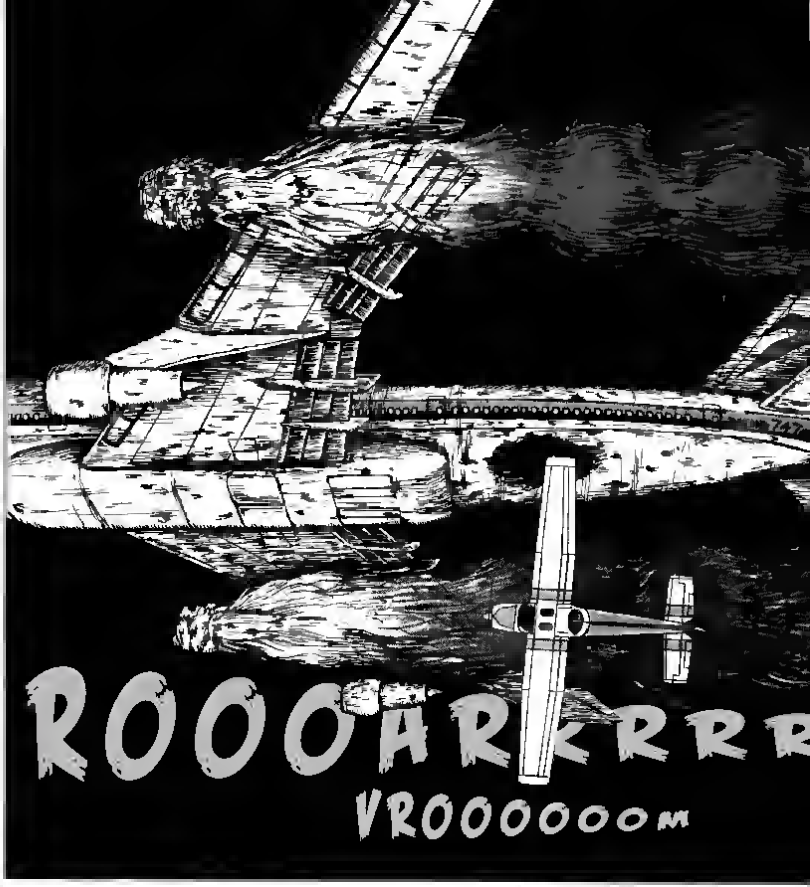
CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?
WE SHOULD BE OVER SHIZUOKA NOW.
NOTHING

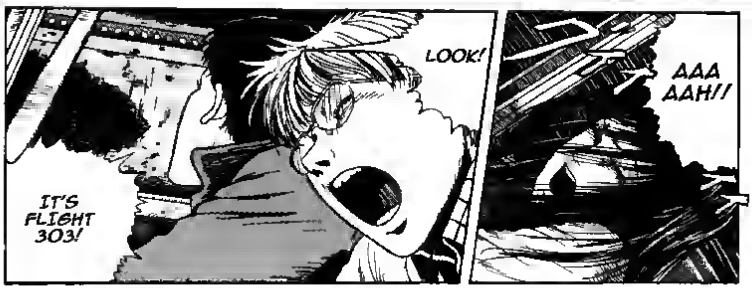
VROOOOM

AN EXPLOSION?
IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXPLOSION

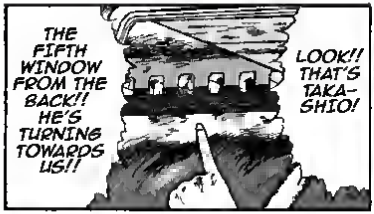
HEY NII-CHAN. CAN'T YOU HEAR SOMETHING?


AAH!
ゴオ
オオ
SFX: ROOOAR...
ROOOARRRRR
WE'RE GOING TO COLLIDE!!
LOOK OUT! THAT'S A PASSENGER PLANE!!!
ROOOARRRRR

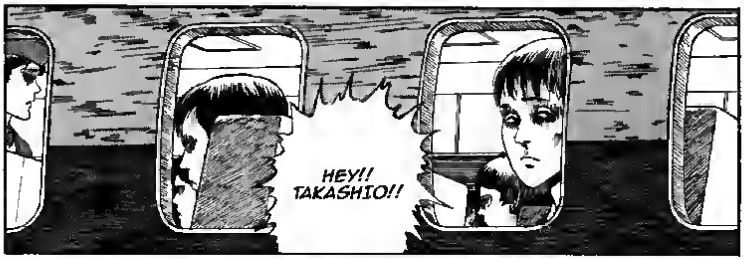

ROOOARKRRR
VROOOOOOM

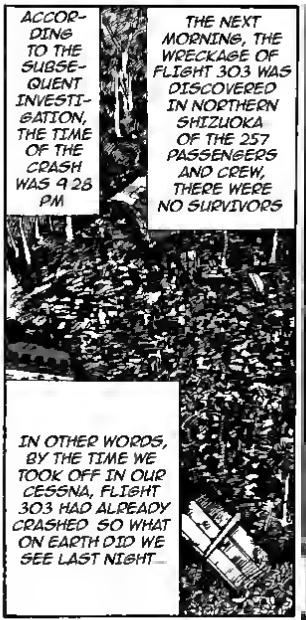

LOOK!
IT'S FLIGHT 303!
AAA AAH!!

ROARR
THANK GOD!! IT DIDN'T CRASH!! ... BUT THERE ARE FLAMES COMING OUT OF THE FIRST AND THIRD ENGINES!! AND THERE ARE HOLES IN THE BODY OF THE PLANE!!
SO THERE'S STILL GOING TO BE IN TROUBLE!!
I HOPE THEY CAN LAND SAFELY, BUT..
NII-CHAN, WATCH OUT! GET AWAY FROM IT! THAT WAS A NEAR MISS!
AAH... LOOK! YOU CAN SEE THE INSIDE OF THE PLANE THROUGH THE WINDOWS!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
THE PASSENGERS SEEM TO BE SAFE!!
THEY EVEN...
THEY EVEN LOOK CALM!!


THE FIFTH WINDOW FROM THE BACK!! HE'S TURNING TOWARDS US!!
LOOK!! THAT'S TAKA-SHIO!

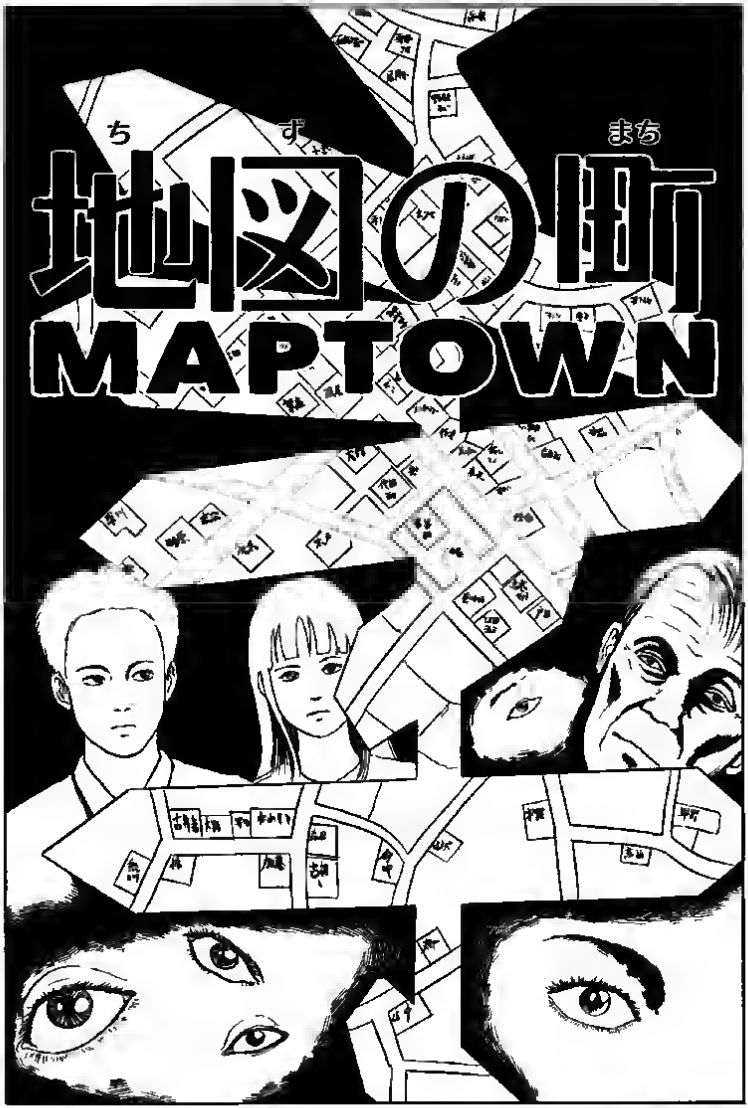
AAH!

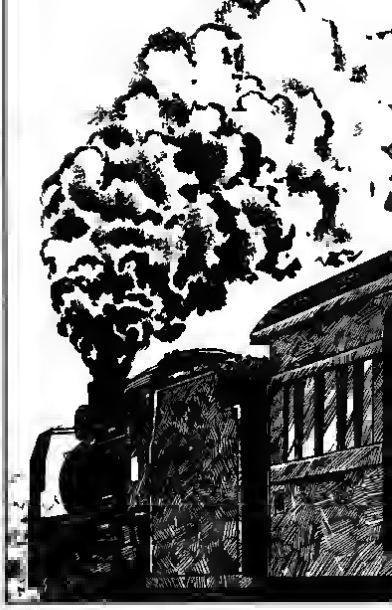

HEY!! TAKASHIO!!


ACCORDING TO THE SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION, THE TIME OF THE CRASH WAS 9:28 PM
THE NEXT MORNING, THE WRECKAGE OF FLIGHT 303 WAS DISCOVERED IN NORTHERN SHIZUOKA. OF THE 257 PASSENGERS AND CREW, THERE WERE NO SURVIVORS
IN OTHER WORDS, BY THE TIME WE TOOK OFF IN OUR CESSNA, FLIGHT 303 HAD ALREADY CRASHED. SO WHAT ON EARTH DID WE SEE LAST NIGHT...

ROOOARRRRRR
IT WAS AROUND 11:40 P.M.
FLIGHT 303, AS IF TO AVOID OUR PURSUIT, FLEW AWAY INTO THE DISTANT SOUTHWEST, ENGINES ROARING

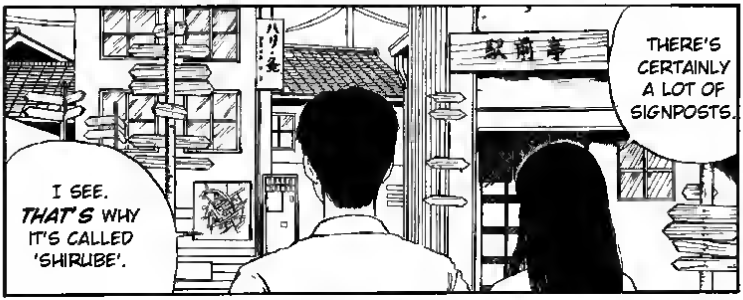
THE END

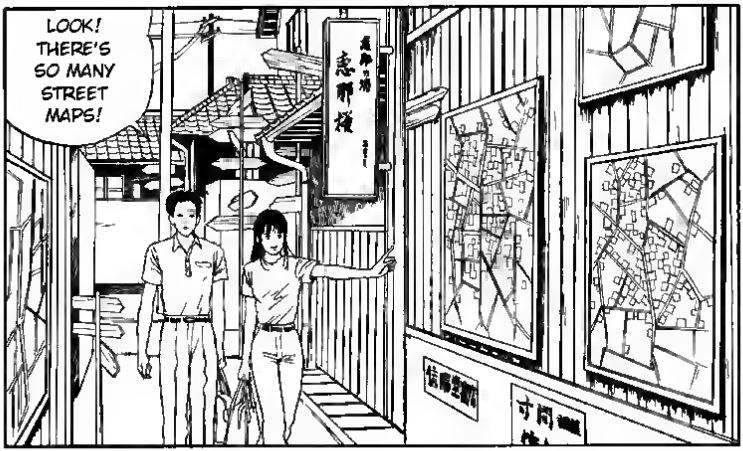

地図の町
ちず
まち
MAPTOWN



* SHIRUBE = 'GUIDE'

高野
大沼町
宮前
東町
松原
新町
商工会
中通


駅前通
THERE'S CERTAINLY A LOT OF SIGNPOSTS.
I SEE. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED 'SHIRUBE'.

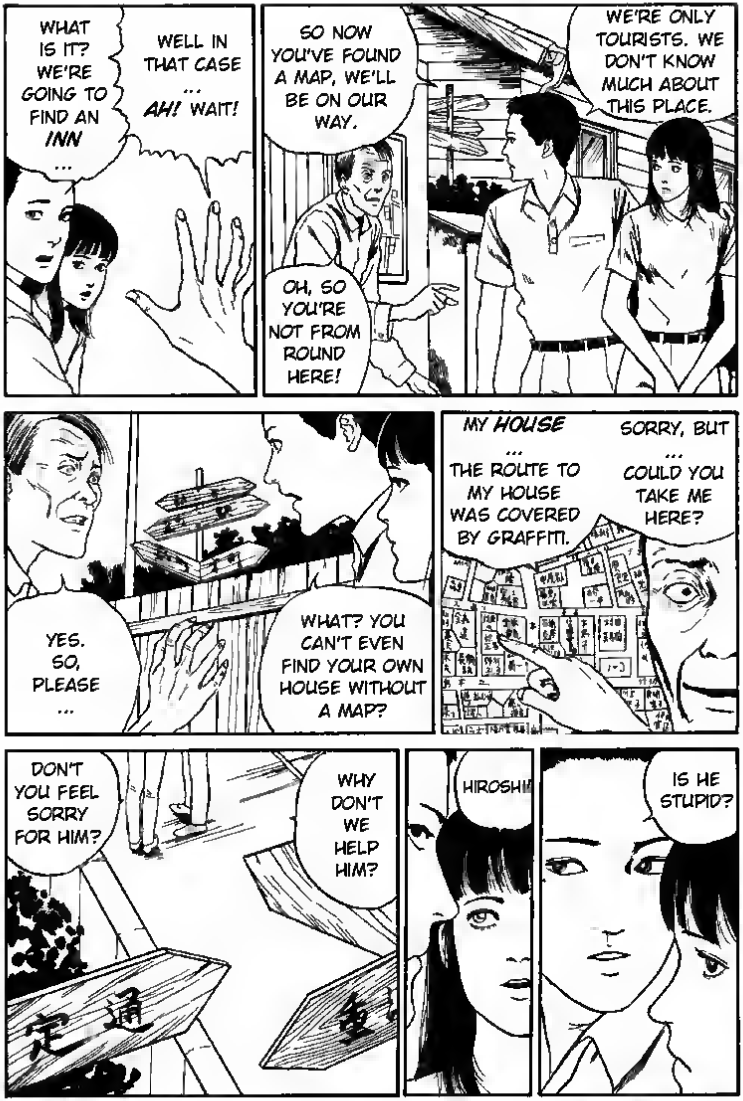

LOOK! THERE'S SO MANY STREET MAPS!
恵那椀

COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'S SIGNS HERE EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY?
IT MUST BE FOR THE TOURISTS.
HEY, MIKI, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? THAT'S THE STATION.
HUH?
THERE'S AN INN CALLED ... KIKUYA.
LET'S GO THERE THEN!
HEY. I LIKE IT HERE. LET'S STAY THE NIGHT HERE IN TOWN!
SURE ...
ME, I NEVER FORGET ANY ROUTE I'VE TAKEN EVEN ONCE. I CAN COUNT ON IT.
JUST FOLLOW ME.
TSK, HIROSHI ...
SHEESH. YOU'VE NO SENSE OF DIRECTION.
OH. I SEE.

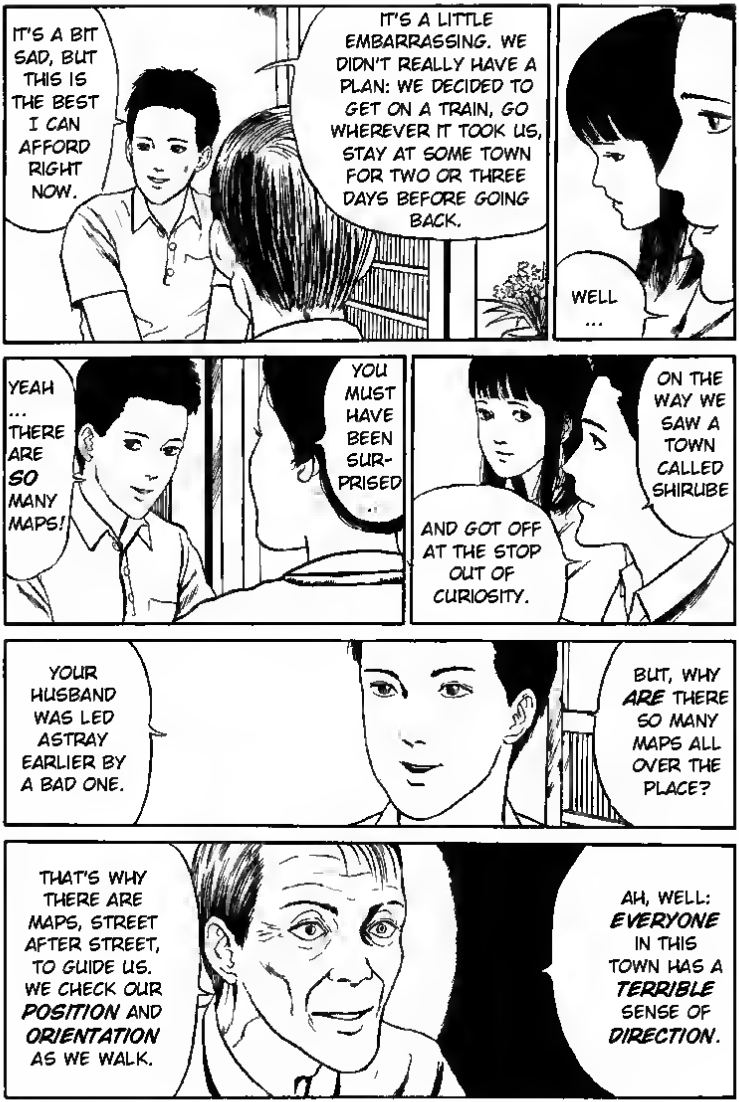
WELL, GUESS THAT MAKES GETTING AROUND HERE ..
STILL, THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF MAPS AND DIRECTION SIGNS.
THERE'S A MAP ON EVERY SINGLE STREET.
WHAT THE-?

I ... COULDN'T SEE THE MAP ...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ARE YOU FEELING UNWELL?
MAP?
MAP ... THE MAPS. I WAS LOOKING FOR A MAP OF TOWN.
科
WHERE ... WHERE ARE THEY?
MAPS ALL OVER THE PLACE IN THIS TOWN?
AREN'T THERE ...
WHERE-? LOOK. IF YOU WALK A BIT THEY'RE EVERY-WHERE.
木科

I WAS WANDERING AROUND FOR TWO HOURS BECAUSE OF IT!
IT WAS THAT GRAFFITI AGAIN, SEE? I GOT LOST IN THAT SECTOR BECAUSE ALL THE MAP GUIDES WERE DRAWN OVER WITH BLACK GRAFFITI!
YOU TWO ARE LIFE-SAVERS
MAPS ... DECENT MAPS!
OH ... I'M SAVED!
YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN EVEN TO TAKE A STROLL!
I'M WORN OUT ... IMAGINE IF I'D BEEN WALKING SLOWER.
UM ...
YOU TWO'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
BUT THE MAPS WERE DEFACED AS USUAL. HOW AWFUL. IT'S BEEN GETTING WORSE LATELY.


WHAT IS IT? WE'RE GOING TO FIND AN INN ...
WELL IN THAT CASE ... AH! WAIT!
SO NOW YOU'VE FOUND A MAP, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.
OH, SO YOU'RE NOT FROM ROUND HERE!
WE'RE ONLY TOURISTS. WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS PLACE.
YES. SO, PLEASE ...
WHAT? YOU CAN'T EVEN FIND YOUR OWN HOUSE WITHOUT A MAP?
MY HOUSE ... THE ROUTE TO MY HOUSE WAS COVERED BY GRAFFITI.
SORRY, BUT ... COULD YOU TAKE ME HERE?
DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR HIM?
WHY DON'T WE HELP HIM?
定通
HIROSHI
IS HE STUPID?

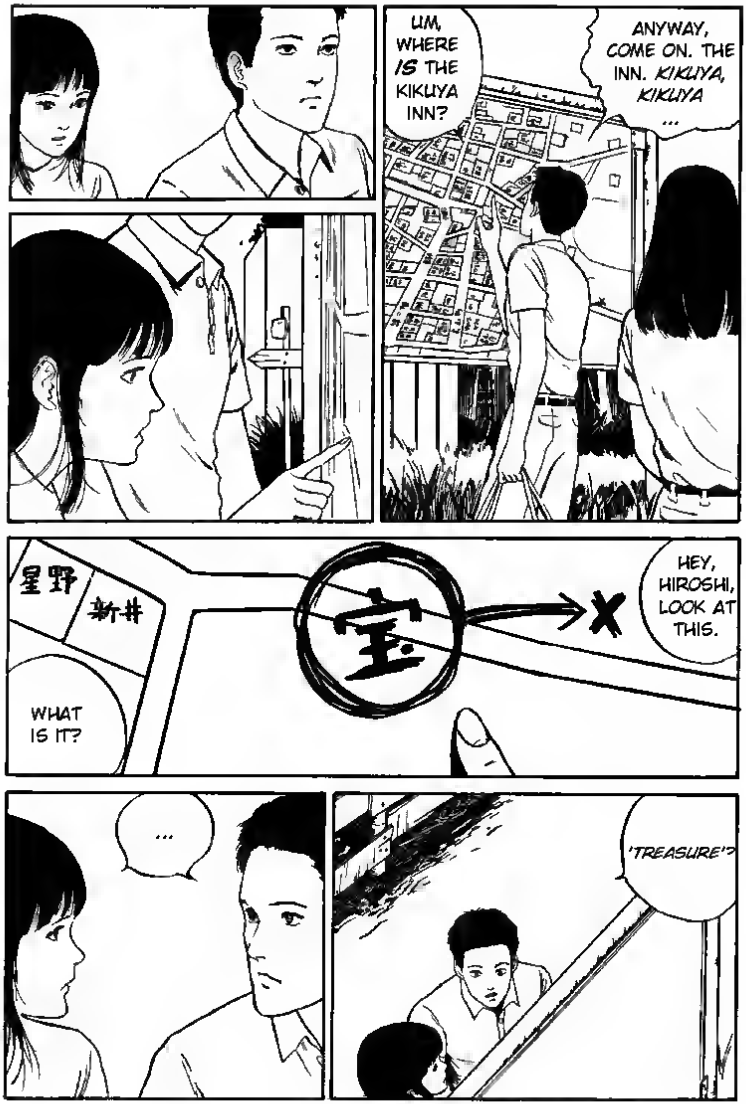
YOU REALLY SAVED ME.
OH, TRULY, THANK YOU.
階段 お風呂
六畳間 トイレ
玄関 台所
MY HUSBAND IS TRULY IN YOUR DEBT.
NOW, NOW. I REALLY OWE YOU KIDS ONE.
NO ... IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY.
WELL! CONGRAT-ULATIONS ... WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?
ACTUALLY WE'RE ON OUR HONEY-MOON.
OH ... YES.
ARE YOU TRAVEL-LING TOGE-THER?

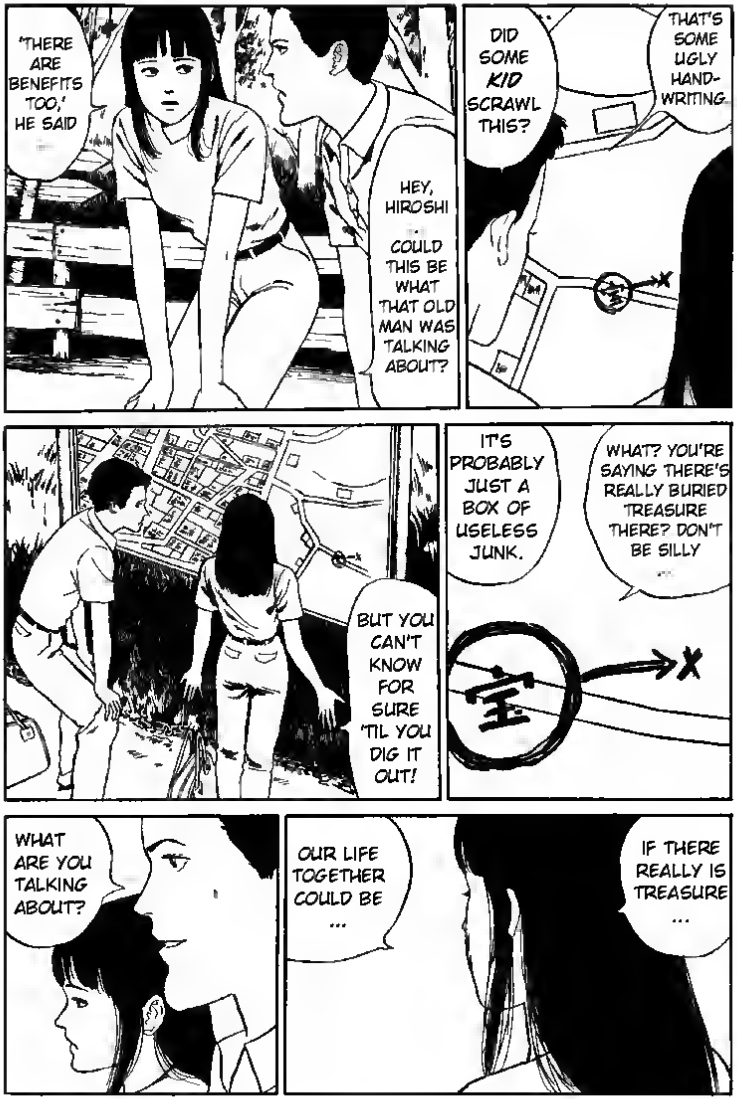

IT'S A BIT SAD, BUT THIS IS THE BEST I CAN AFFORD RIGHT NOW.
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING. WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A PLAN: WE DECIDED TO GET ON A TRAIN, GO WHEREVER IT TOOK US, STAY AT SOME TOWN FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS BEFORE GOING BACK.
WELL ...
YEAH ... THERE ARE SO MANY MAPS!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SURPRISED.
ON THE WAY WE SAW A TOWN CALLED SHIRUBE AND GOT OFF AT THE STOP OUT OF CURIOSITY.
YOUR HUSBAND WAS LED ASTRAY EARLIER BY A BAD ONE.
BUT, WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MAPS ALL OVER THE PLACE?
THAT'S WHY THERE ARE MAPS, STREET AFTER STREET, TO GUIDE US. WE CHECK OUR POSITION AND ORIENTATION AS WE WALK.
AH, WELL: EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN HAS A TERRIBLE SENSE OF DIRECTION.

YOU LOSE IT 'TIL YOU CAN'T EVEN GO OUT FOR A WALK. NOWADAYS, NO MATTER WHERE I GO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT A MAP.
LOSE YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION?!
FOR THE AREA YOU LIVE IN
OKAY, BUT EVEN SO, YOU WOULDN'T USUALLY NEED A MAP
YOU TWO JUST GOT HERE SO YOU DON'T HAVE IT YET. STAYING IN THIS TOWN A WHILE MAKES YOU LOSE YOUR SENSE OF DIRECTION
NO, I'M NOT DOUBTING YOU, IT'S JUST THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF SUCH A THING.
HARD TO BELIEVE, HUH?
IT'S LIKE THE EARTH HERE IS SOMEHOW MAGNETICALLY ABNORMAL.
BUT HOW? IS IT SERIOUSLY DOWN TO SOMETHING IN THE SOIL?
THIS TOWN MESSES UP YOUR INTERNAL COMPASS!

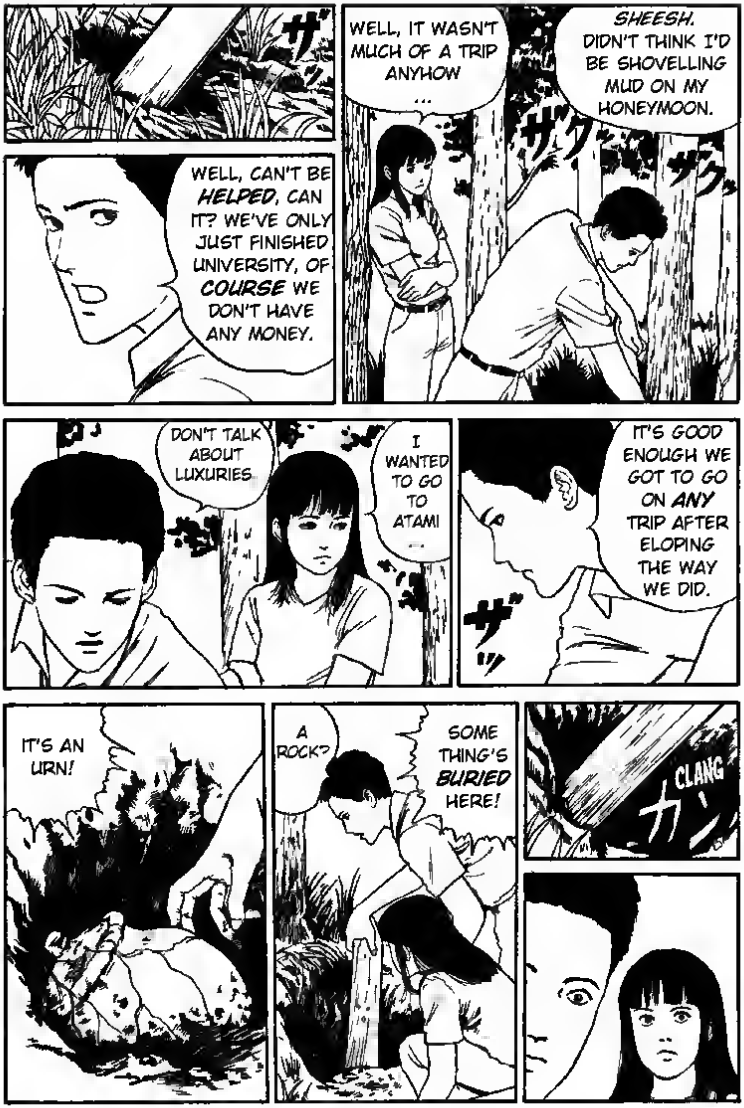
PEOPLE USED TO FEAR IT AS THE WORK OF THE FOREST GODS. TIMES HAVE CHANGED NOW, AND THE FOREST HAS TOO.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. BUT THERE COULD BE SOMETHING IN THAT DEEP DARK FOREST THAT MAKES IT EASY TO GET LOST IN THERE. THE KAMIKAKUSHI.
* KAMIKAKUSHI 'SPIRITING AWAY', A PERSON DISAPPEARED BY ANGERED GOD-SPIRITS (KAMI)
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ALL TERRIFIED OF GETTING LOST, EVEN ON A MAIN STREET IN THE DAYTIME.
IT'S JUST TOO STRESSFUL
ACTUALLY, KAMIKAKUSHI STILL HAPPENS HERE ...
BUT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT MYSTICAL FOREST, WITH ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HAVE VANISHED IN THOSE TREES, RIGHT?
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF MOVING AWAY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THAT SOUNDS CREEPY.
SO ALL THAT GRAFFITI ON THE MAPS IS LIKE SABOTAGE. IT MUST BE AN OUTSIDER'S DOING.
OTHER TOWNS DON'T HAVE THE GUIDE-MAPS.
WE CAN ONLY LIVE IN THIS TOWN. WE'VE ALREADY ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
SOME PEOPLE SAY IT'S THE WORK OF A TENGU.
* TENGU BIRD/HUMAN SPIRIT, PROTECTIVE OR MISCHIEVOUS

AHH, I DUNNO IF IT'S THE TENGU'S DOING, BUT OCCASIONALLY A TREASURE IS MARKED ON THE MAP
HONEY! THAT'S ...
BENE-FITS?
BUT THERE ARE BENEFITS TOO.
HM.
MIKI, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT OLD GUY'S STORY?
I'M NOT SURE. WALKING WITH YOU NOW IS FINE, HITOSHI. BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT WALKING ALONE.
THAT'S JUST 'CAUSE THIS IS AN UNFAMILIAR TOWN. YOU'RE SO SUGGESTABLE, MIKI. ALL THAT TALK WAS RUBBISH.
YOU FELL FOR IT!


UM, WHERE *IS* THE KIKUYA INN?
ANYWAY, COME ON. THE INN. *KIKUYA, KIKUYA* ...
星野
新井
宝
HEY, HIROSHI, LOOK AT THIS.
WHAT IS IT?
...
'TREASURE'?


"THERE ARE BENEFITS TOO,' HE SAID
HEY, HIROSHI
COULD THIS BE WHAT THAT OLD MAN WAS TALKING ABOUT?
DID SOME KID SCRAWL THIS?
THAT'S SOME UGLY HAND-WRITING
BUT YOU CAN'T KNOW FOR SURE 'TIL YOU DIG IT OUT!
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A BOX OF USELESS JUNK.
WHAT? YOU'RE SAYING THERE'S REALLY BURIED TREASURE THERE? DON'T BE SILLY
宝
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OUR LIFE TOGETHER COULD BE ...
IF THERE REALLY IS TREASURE ...

WHERE DO WE START DIGGING?
THE 'X' MARKS THIS SPOT.
GOING BY THE MAP ...
SHALL WE DIG?
IF YOU HAVE A FEELING ABOUT IT, MIKI, I KNOW I CAN TRUST IT.
BAK
バキ
AH! ARE YOU SURE? YOU BROKE IT ...
HERE. I HAVE A FEELING ABOUT IT.
HERE?!
HUH? WHERE?

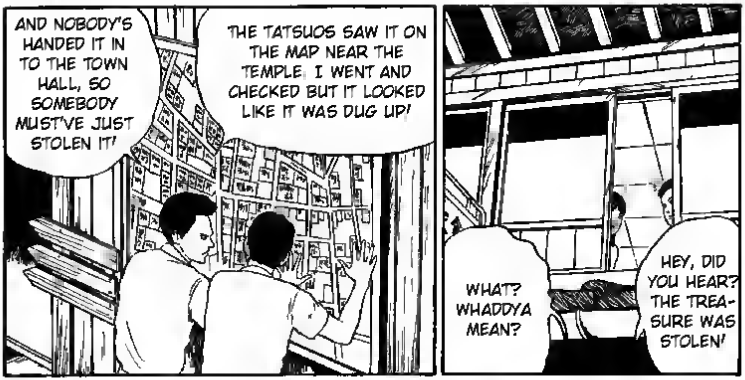

ザ
WELL, IT WASN'T MUCH OF A TRIP ANYHOW ...
SHEESH. DIDN'T THINK I'D BE SHOVELLING MUD ON MY HONEYMOON.
ザク
ザク
WELL, CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT? WE'VE ONLY JUST FINISHED UNIVERSITY, OF COURSE WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
DON'T TALK ABOUT LUXURIES.
I WANTED TO GO TO ATAMI ...
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH WE GOT TO GO ON ANY TRIP AFTER ELOPING THE WAY WE DID.
ザ
IT'S AN URN!
A ROCK?
SOME THING'S BURIED HERE!
CLANG
カン

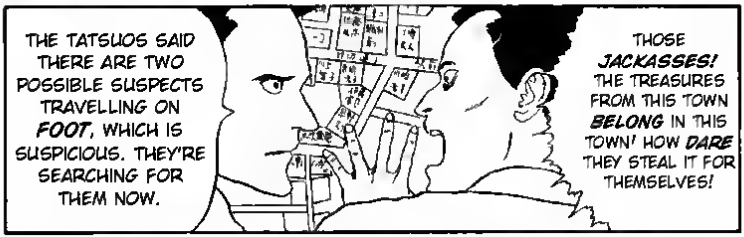
カシッ
CLINK
AREN'T THESE ... KO-BANS?!
LOOK ...
THEY'RE REAL ... ABSOLUTELY REAL. THEY'RE SO *HEAVY*. AND THIS URN IS SO *OLD*.
ARE THEY REAL?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS WAS BURIED HERE FOR FUN. FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS ...

* KOBAN: GOLD OVAL JAPANESE COIN FROM THE EDO PERIOD (1603-1867)

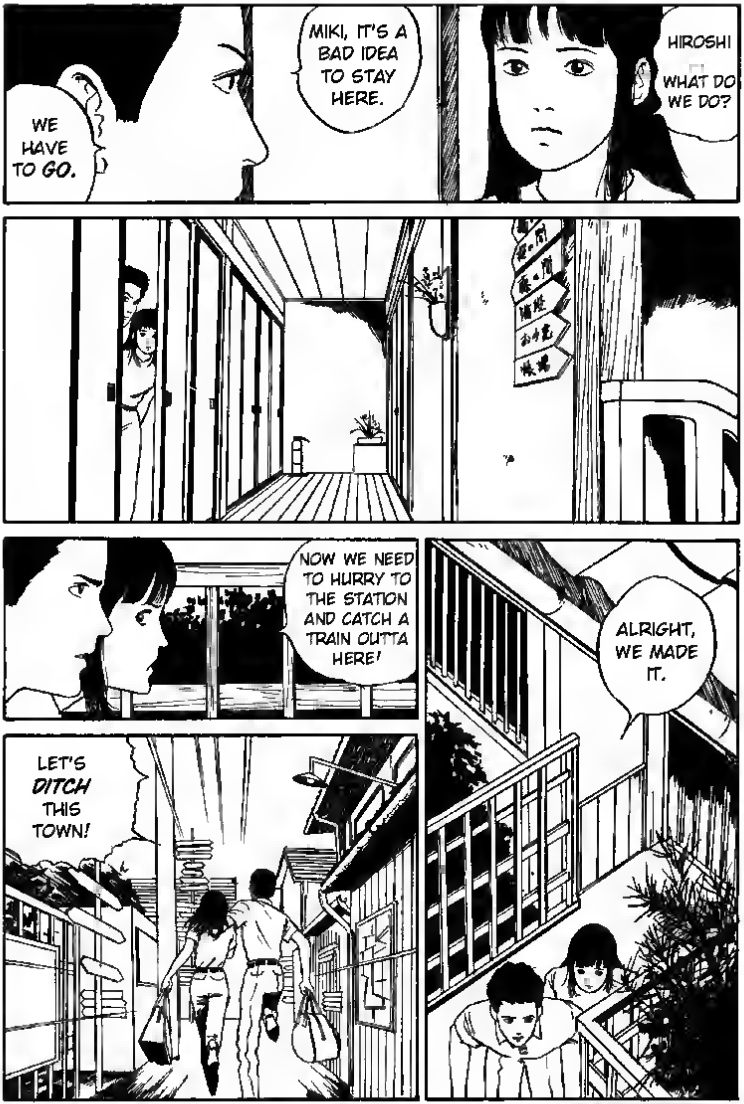
MAYBE IT REALLY WAS A TENGU.
WHY WAS IT MARKED OUT ON THE MAP? WHO'D HAVE DONE SUCH A THING?
IF IT'S REALLY THE REAL THING ...
SH!
BUT ... THIS TOWN IS SO STRANGE. YOU CAN'T WALK AROUND WITHOUT A MAP, AND IF IT SAYS THERE'S BURIED TREASURE, IT REALLY IS THERE.
ARE THEY LOCALS?

旅館
菊屋
KIKUYA INN
LOOK. WHAT THAT OLD MAN SAID SEEMS TO BE *REAL*.
PEDESTRIANS ARE CHECKING THE MAPS CONSTANTLY AS THEY WALK ...


AND NOBODY'S HANDED IT IN TO THE TOWN HALL, SO SOMEBODY MUST'VE JUST STOLEN IT!
THE TATSUOS SAW IT ON THE MAP NEAR THE TEMPLE. I WENT AND CHECKED BUT IT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS DUG UP!
WHAT? WHADDYA MEAN?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR? THE TREASURE WAS STOLEN!


THE TATSUOS SAID THERE ARE TWO POSSIBLE SUSPECTS TRAVELLING ON *FOOT*, WHICH IS SUSPICIOUS. THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THEM NOW.
THOSE *JACKASSES!* THE TREASURES FROM THIS TOWN *BELONG* IN THIS TOWN! HOW *DARE* THEY STEAL IT FOR THEMSELVES!

MIGHT STILL BE AROUND HERE SOME PLACE. WE'RE GONNA LOOK!
WHAT?!
THE TOWN TREASURE'S BEEN DUG UP AND STOLEN.
HEY, WHAT YOU SHOUTING LIKE THAT FOR?
I *WON'T FORGIVE* WHOEVER DID IT!


HIROSHI
WHAT DO WE DO?
MIKI, IT'S A BAD IDEA TO STAY HERE.
WE HAVE TO GO.
NOW WE NEED TO HURRY TO THE STATION AND CATCH A TRAIN OUTTA HERE!
ALRIGHT, WE MADE IT.
LET'S DITCH THIS TOWN!

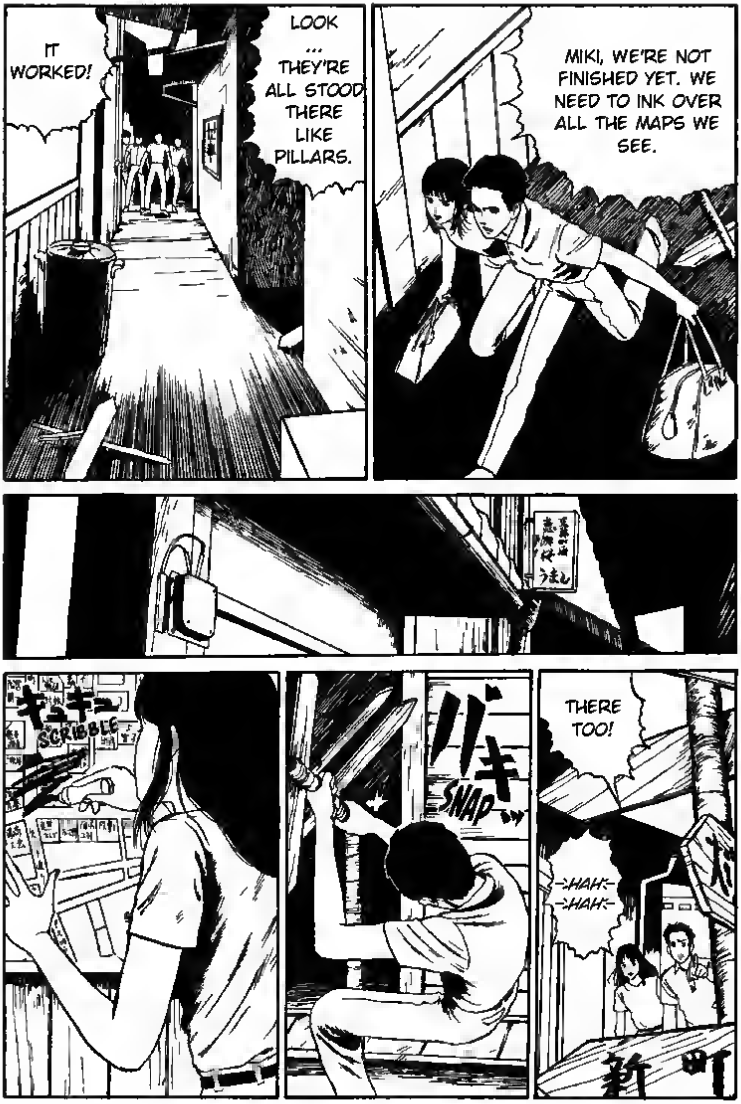
下井沢 東
駅
STATION
THIS IS NO JOKE!
ISN'T IT BEST TO GIVE THE URN BACK TO THE TOWNSPEOPLE? WE CAN JUST TELL THEM WE DIDNT KNOW BETTER.
WHAT DO WE DO, HIROSHI?
NO ... THEY'RE ALREADY AT THE STATION.
駅
AND JUST THINK HOW MUCH GOLD IT IS!
WE WERE THE ONES WHO DUG IT UP.
OKAY, I HAVE AN IDEA. LET'S TEMPORARILY HIDE THIS BAG SOMEWHERE IN THE TOWN.
駅
I'M POOR. WE LIVE SUCH A HARD LIFE AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT. I WANT TO CHANGE THE WAY YOUR PARENTS SEE ME!
BUT ... HIROSHI

I SEE. THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.
THEN WE LEAVE, ACTING INNOCENT. WE COME BACK FOR IT WHEN IT'S ALL COOLED DOWN.
WHAT?!
WELL ... RETURN WHAT'S IN THE BAG.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
W-WHAT'S UP?

IT'S THE CULPRITS! THEY'RE OVER HERE!
CATCH 'EM AND TEAR THEM APART!
WAIT!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
GET 'EM!
DAMN IT! WHERE'D THEY GO?
-HAH-
-HAH-
THEY SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THEY'LL GET SPIRITED AWAY.
HA ... HAHAHA THEY'RE AFRAID OF GETTING LOST.
BE CAREFUL OF THE GRAFFITI.
BE CAREFUL! DON'T WANDER OFF AIMLESSLY.
THEIR CURRENT POSITION IS

DRAW OVER ALL THE MAPS HERE 'TIL THEY'RE INDECIPHERABLE!
LET'S FREAK THEM OUT EVEN MORE.
MIKI, YOU HAVE A MARKER PEN, RIGHT?
THOSE IDIOTS ARE SCARED TO EVEN WALK
YEAH.
JUST SCRIBBLE EVERY-WHERE!
IT'S FINE IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE RIGHT NOW.
SNAP
HELP ME OUT! YOU'VE GOT THE OTHER MARKER.
SNAP

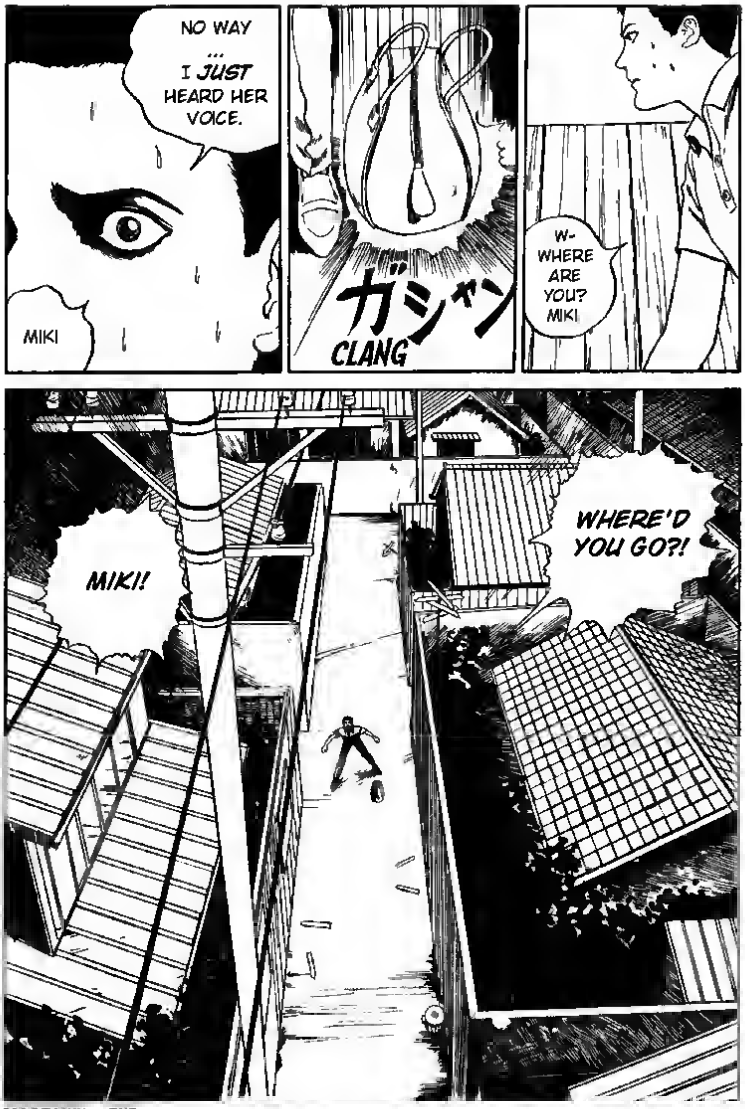
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
AH! THERE!
バキッ
SNAP
HA ... HAHAHAHA ... I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU COME OVER HERE.
ALL THOSE WHO WANT TO GET SPIRITED AWAY, COME ON OVER!
ALL THE MAPS HERE ARE UNUSABLE!
MIKI, LET'S GO!


IT WORKED!
LOOK ... THEY'RE ALL STOOD THERE LIKE PILLARS.
MIKI, WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET. WE NEED TO INK OVER ALL THE MAPS WE SEE.
キュキュ SCRIBBLE
バキ SNAP
THERE TOO!
-:HAH:-
-:HAH:-
新町

I JUST THOUGHT ... LET'S TRASH THIS CENTRE BIT ON ALL THE MAPS IN TOWN ...
LET'S SEE WHAT THEY DO NOW!
HA HAHA ...
-:HAH:- -:HAH:-
-:HAH:- -:HAH:-
-:HAH:- -:HAH:-
HIROSHI ...
HEY ...
HIROSHI ... WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
TO A HIGH-WAY.
WE'LL HITCH-HIKE TO ANOTHER TOWN FROM THERE
BUT, HIROSHI ... DON'T YOU THINK IT'S ODD?
SINCE EARLIER, ALL THE MAPS WE'VE SEEN HAVE BEEN DRAWN ON.

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH WE'RE GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES ...
I KNOW ... I KNOW, ALRIGHT?
THAT MEANS WE CAN'T HAVE TAKEN EVEN ONE STEP OUT OF THE AREA WE DEFACED ON THE MAP.
I TRUST MY SENSE OF DIRECTION. WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE SOON!
WE'RE NOT LOST!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
BUT HOW?! HIRO-SHI!
HIROSHI. HEY, HIROSHI
WHAT A JOKE.
DAMN IT!

STOP NAGGING! I TOLD YOU NOT TO WORRY!
HIROSHI. HEY, HIROSHI. COME ON.
MIKI ...


NO WAY ... I JUST HEARD HER VOICE.
MIKI
ガシャン
CLANG
W-WHERE ARE YOU? MIKI
MIKI!
WHERE'D YOU GO?!

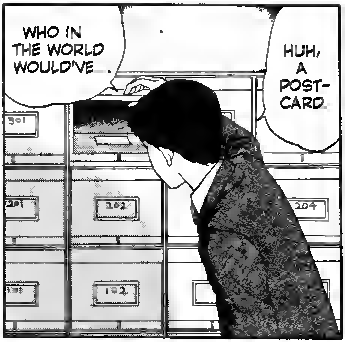
サイレンの村
THE VILLAGE OF SIRENS

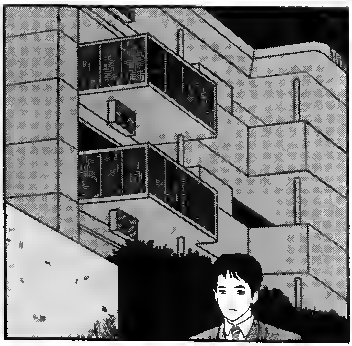
STEP ASIDE, FATHER...
HAIYAMA... WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE?
I SAID STEP ASIDE
AHH!
THIS IS ABSOLUTELY IMPER-MISSIBLE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? I'M GOING TO FREE WHAT YOU'VE GOT IMPRISONED DOWNSTAIRS.
HAI-YAMA!
HAIYAMA, STOP! PLEASE DON'T!

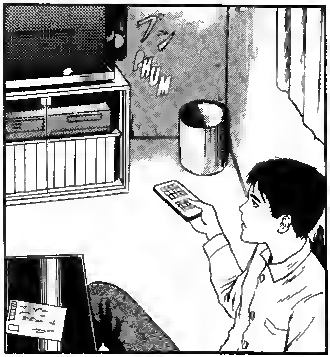
STOP THIS AT ONCE! DO YOU MEAN TO DESTROY THE WHOLE VILLAGE?!
CRASH
CHIEF YAMAUCHI WILL BE REELECTED FOR SURE
NO ONE IN HIS RIGHT MIND WOULD VOTE FOR A NOVICE LIKE YOU!
TO YOU, I'M . CHIEF HAI-YAMA
WATCH YOUR TONE, FATHER REMEMBER WHO YOU'RE SPEAK-ING TO I'M SET TO BE THE NEXT HEAD OF THIS VILLAGE
WHAT'S THAT?!
WHAT IF HE WERE TO FALL ILL?
IT TOOK FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, BUT I HAVE RETURNED
A CURSE FOR A MAN LIKE YAMAUCHI? THAT'S A SNAP
I AM THE REINCAR-NATION OF THE SORCERER DORMAN
DON'T BE PREPOS-TEROUS YOU'RE NOT THE REINCAR-NATION OF ANYBODY

I CANNOT ALLOW YOU ANYWHERE NEAR THE BASEMENT! KEEP AWAY!
NO, DON'T!!
WHUAAA!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
ドン!
AWK.
HA HA HA HA.
HEH HEH HEH
AND YOU, FATHER SAITO, ARE MY FIRST SACRIFICE

N. CITY.
TWO MONTHS LATER.


WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD'VE ..
HUH, A POST-CARD.





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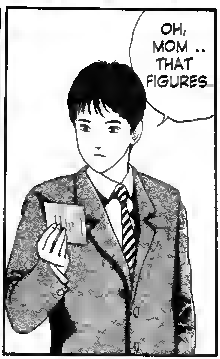
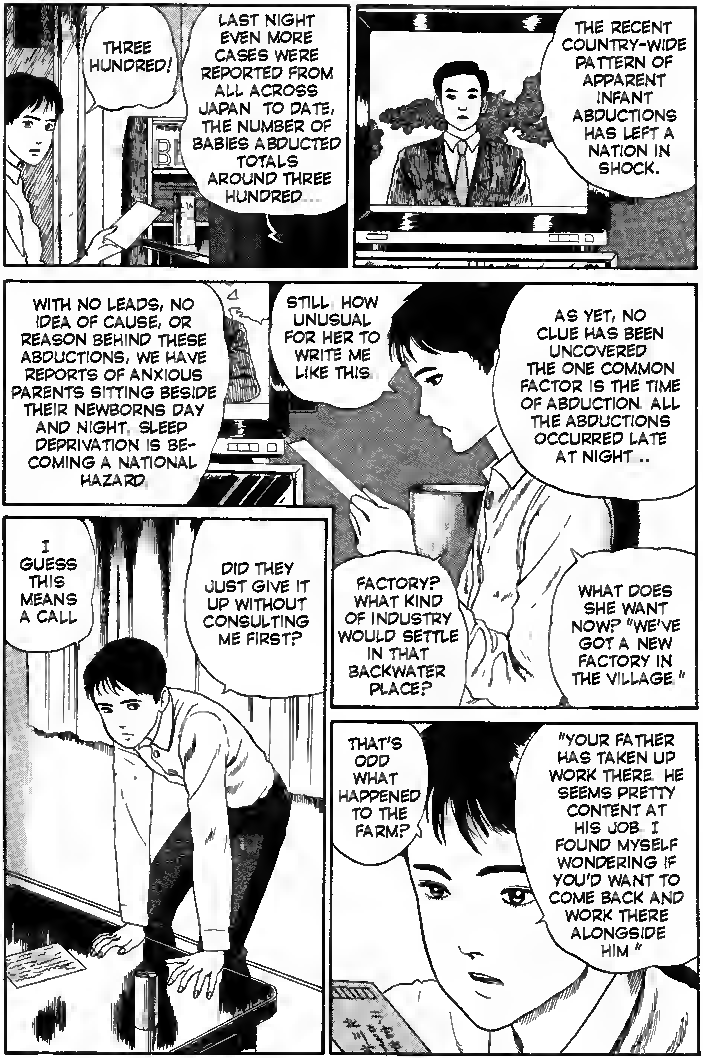
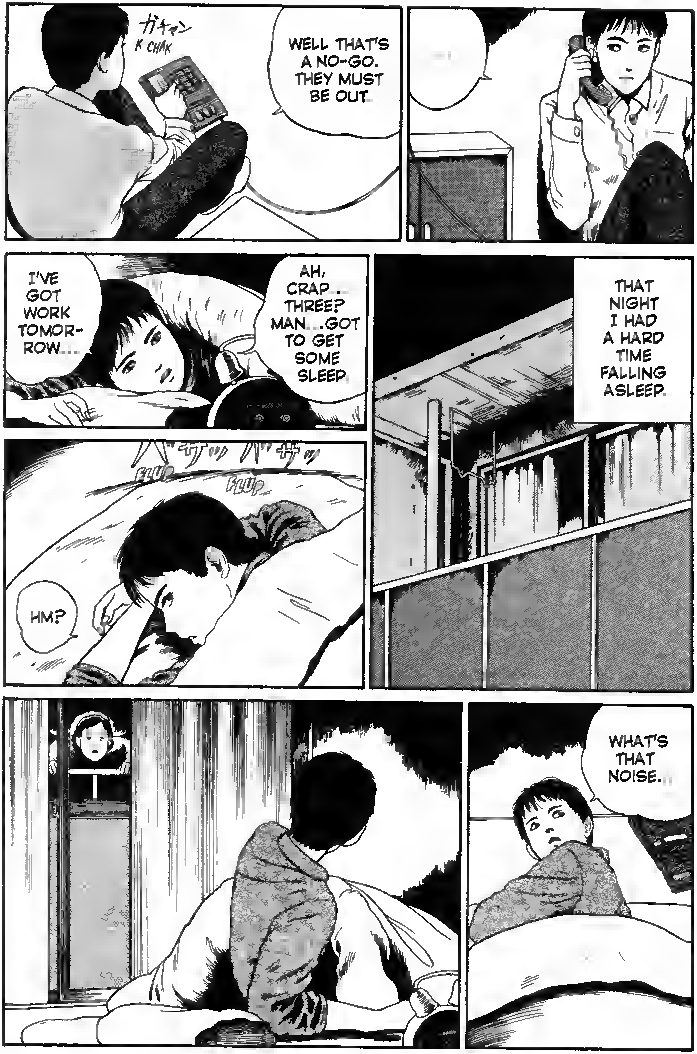
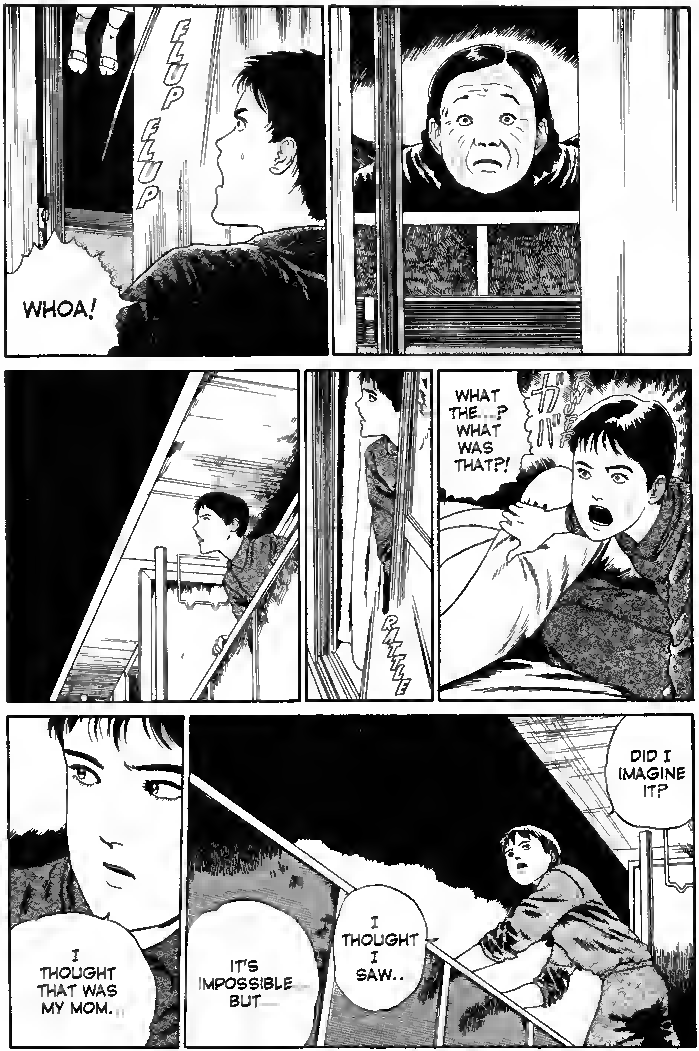
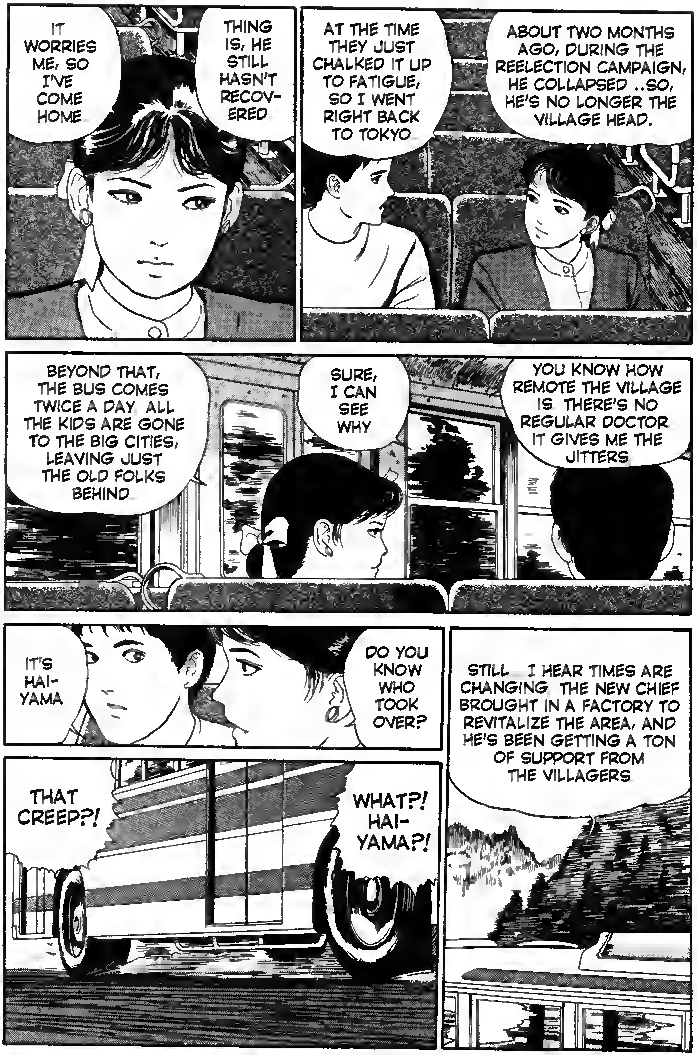

OH, MOM .. THAT FIGURES.


THREE HUNDRED!
LAST NIGHT EVEN MORE CASES WERE REPORTED FROM ALL ACROSS JAPAN TO DATE, THE NUMBER OF BABIES ABDUCTED TOTALS AROUND THREE HUNDRED...
THE RECENT COUNTRY-WIDE PATTERN OF APPARENT INFANT ABDUCTIONS HAS LEFT A NATION IN SHOCK.
WITH NO LEADS, NO IDEA OF CAUSE, OR REASON BEHIND THESE ABDUCTIONS, WE HAVE REPORTS OF ANXIOUS PARENTS SITTING BESIDE THEIR NEWBORNS DAY AND NIGHT. SLEEP DEPRIVATION IS BECOMING A NATIONAL HAZARD.
STILL HOW UNUSUAL FOR HER TO WRITE ME LIKE THIS.
AS YET, NO CLUE HAS BEEN UNCOVERED THE ONE COMMON FACTOR IS THE TIME OF ABDUCTION. ALL THE ABDUCTIONS OCCURRED LATE AT NIGHT..
I GUESS THIS MEANS A CALL
DID THEY JUST GIVE IT UP WITHOUT CONSULTING ME FIRST?
FACTORY? WHAT KIND OF INDUSTRY WOULD SETTLE IN THAT BACKWATER PLACE?
WHAT DOES SHE WANT NOW? "WE'VE GOT A NEW FACTORY IN THE VILLAGE."
THAT'S ODD WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FARM?
"YOUR FATHER HAS TAKEN UP WORK THERE. HE SEEMS PRETTY CONTENT AT HIS JOB. I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING IF YOU'D WANT TO COME BACK AND WORK THERE ALONGSIDE HIM."

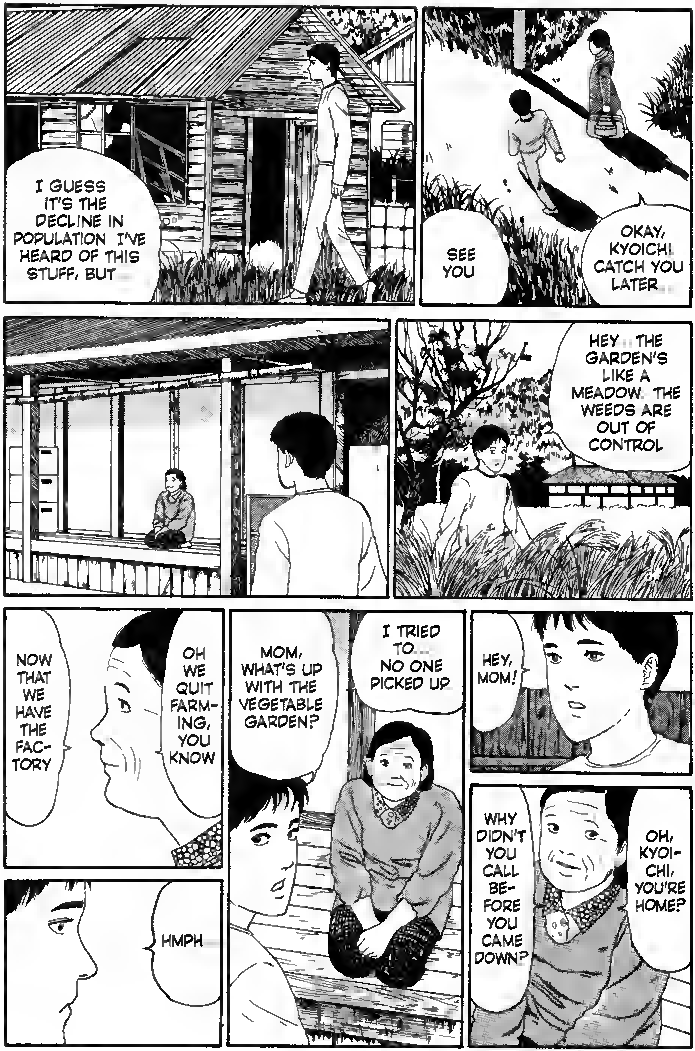

ガチャン
K CHAK
WELL THAT'S A NO-GO. THEY MUST BE OUT.
I'VE GOT WORK TOMOR-ROW....
AH, CRAP.. THREE? MAN...GOT TO GET SOME SLEEP.
THAT NIGHT I HAD A HARD TIME FALLING ASLEEP.
HM?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE...


FLIP FLIP
WHOA!
WHAT THE...? WHAT WAS THAT?!
PATTER
DID I IMAGINE IT?
I THOUGHT I SAW..
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... BUT...
I THOUGHT THAT WAS MY MOM...

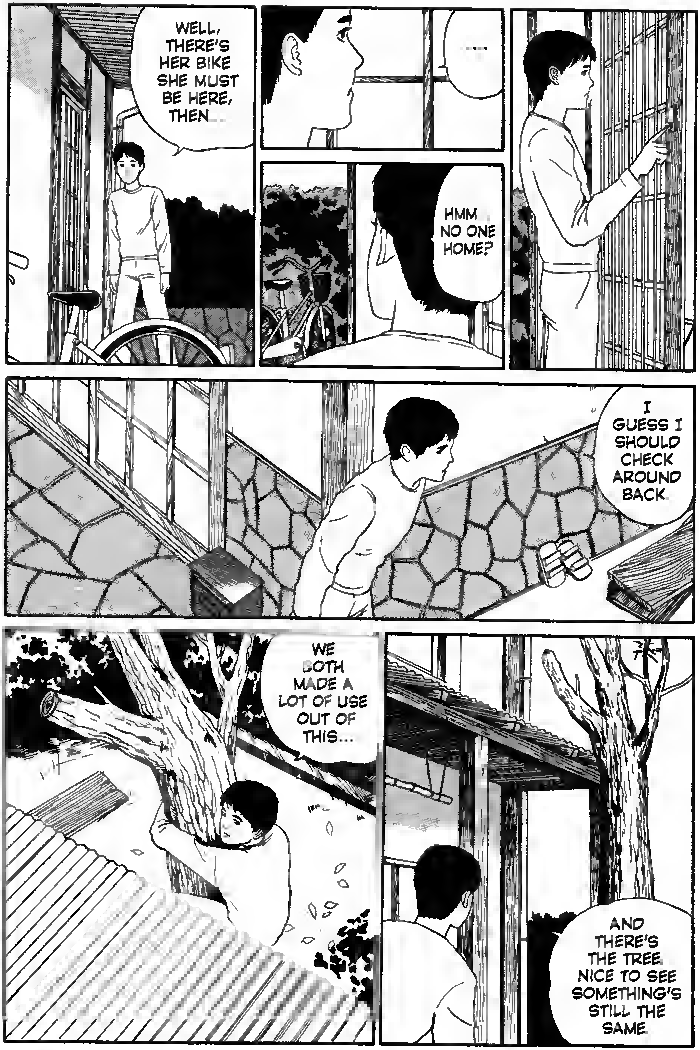
URRR
SHIROBE VILLAGE HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN AWAY NOW?
URRRR
HEY, YEAH, LONG TIME NO SEE
PLEASE
IT'S SHOKO, REMEMBER? CAN I SIT HERE?
KYO-ICHI? IS THAT YOU?
YEAH, I QUIT MY JOB. MY DAD FELL SICK, SO I THOUGHT IT BEST TO COME HOME
YESTER-DAY?
WHAT, THE CHIEF? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
I WORK IN N CITY SHOKO YOU'RE IN TOKYO, RIGHT?
YOU LOOK WELL HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN? WHAT'RE YOU DOING NOW?
WELL, UNTIL YESTER-DAY


IT WORRIES ME, SO I'VE COME HOME
THING IS, HE STILL HASN'T RECOVERED
AT THE TIME THEY JUST CHALKED IT UP TO FATIGUE, SO I WENT RIGHT BACK TO TOKYO
ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, DURING THE REELECTION CAMPAIGN, HE COLLAPSED ..SO, HE'S NO LONGER THE VILLAGE HEAD.
BEYOND THAT, THE BUS COMES TWICE A DAY ALL THE KIDS ARE GONE TO THE BIG CITIES, LEAVING JUST THE OLD FOLKS BEHIND
SURE, I CAN SEE WHY
YOU KNOW HOW REMOTE THE VILLAGE IS THERE'S NO REGULAR DOCTOR IT GIVES ME THE JITTERS
IT'S HAI-YAMA
DO YOU KNOW WHO TOOK OVER?
STILL I HEAR TIMES ARE CHANGING THE NEW CHIEF BROUGHT IN A FACTORY TO REVITALIZE THE AREA, AND HE'S BEEN GETTING A TON OF SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGERS
THAT CREEP?!
WHAT?! HAI-YAMA?!

YOU KNOW THAT WEIRDO USED TO SAY HE WAS THE REBIRTH OF SOME SORCERER?
MAN, HE ISN'T EVEN THIRTY YET. WHAT IN THE...
IT FEELS LIKE A... GHOST TOWN.
TELL ME, AM I IMAGINING IT...
YEAH...
...OR DOES EVERYTHING LOOK... DIFFERENT?
SHIROBE VILLAGE

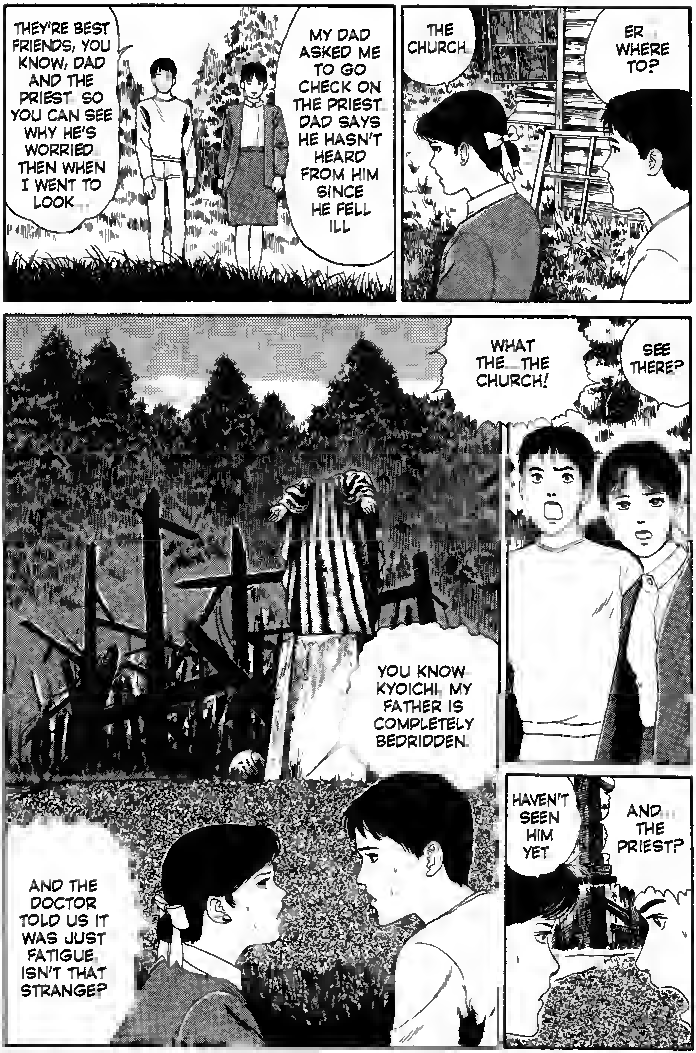

I GUESS IT'S THE DECLINE IN POPULATION I'VE HEARD OF THIS STUFF, BUT...
OKAY, KYOICHI. CATCH YOU LATER...
SEE YOU
HEY... THE GARDEN'S LIKE A MEADOW. THE WEEDS ARE OUT OF CONTROL
I TRIED TO... NO ONE PICKED UP
MOM, WHAT'S UP WITH THE VEGETABLE GARDEN?
HEY, MOM!
OH, KYOICHI, YOU'RE HOME?
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN?
OH WE QUIT FARMING, YOU KNOW
NOW THAT WE HAVE THE FACTORY
HMPH...

I'LL GO STRETCH MY LEGS
THERE WAS SOMETHING OFF ABOUT HER
HAVE FUN
SURE
I HEADED FOR YUKARI'S PLACE SHE WAS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND


WELL, THERE'S HER BIKE SHE MUST BE HERE, THEN...
.....
HMM... NO ONE HOME?
I GUESS I SHOULD CHECK AROUND BACK.
WE BOTH MADE A LOT OF USE OUT OF THIS...
AND THERE'S THE TREE. NICE TO SEE SOMETHING'S STILL THE SAME.

HEY. WELL, THERE SHE IS.
HM?
HER ROOM IS A SHAMBLES.
WHAT ARE THOSE BOOKS...THE OCCULT? HUH. GO FIGURE.
コンコン
YUKARI! HEY!
IT'S ME!
YUKARI!! YO, OPEN UP. WHAT ARE YOU, DEAF?!

THOSE FEW PEOPLE I COME ACROSS LOOK . ODD
HELLO
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY, AND HARDLY ANYONE'S AROUND
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT..
OH KYOI-CHI
HEY, SHOKO. WHAT'S UP?
HM?
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
HOW'S YOUR FATHER?


THEY'RE BEST FRIENDS, YOU KNOW, DAD AND THE PRIEST. SO YOU CAN SEE WHY HE'S WORRIED. THEN WHEN I WENT TO LOOK...
MY DAD ASKED ME TO GO CHECK ON THE PRIEST. DAD SAYS HE HASN'T HEARD FROM HIM SINCE HE FELL ILL.
THE CHURCH.
ER... WHERE TO?
WHAT THE... THE CHURCH!
SEE THERE?
YOU KNOW, KYOICHI, MY FATHER IS COMPLETELY BEDRIDDEN.
AND THE DOCTOR TOLD US IT WAS JUST FATIGUE. ISN'T THAT STRANGE?
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET.
AND THE PRIEST?

SHOKO... SOMETHING'S WRONG IN THIS VILLAGE
JUST NOW, I VISITED YUKARI TANIYAMA.
SHE WAS SHUT UP IN HER ROOM I YELLED, BUT SHE DIDN'T RESPOND
YOU WANTED TO TALK TO HER? WELL... THERE'S YOUR CHANCE...
OH!
YUKARI!

YUKA-RI!
HEY, YUKARI!
YUKA-RI...
KYOI-CHI...
HUH?
YUKARI?
WHAT?!
SHE... I THINK SHE'S DEAF!
ON HER EARS... IS THAT DRIED BLOOD?
HEY! YUKARI?!

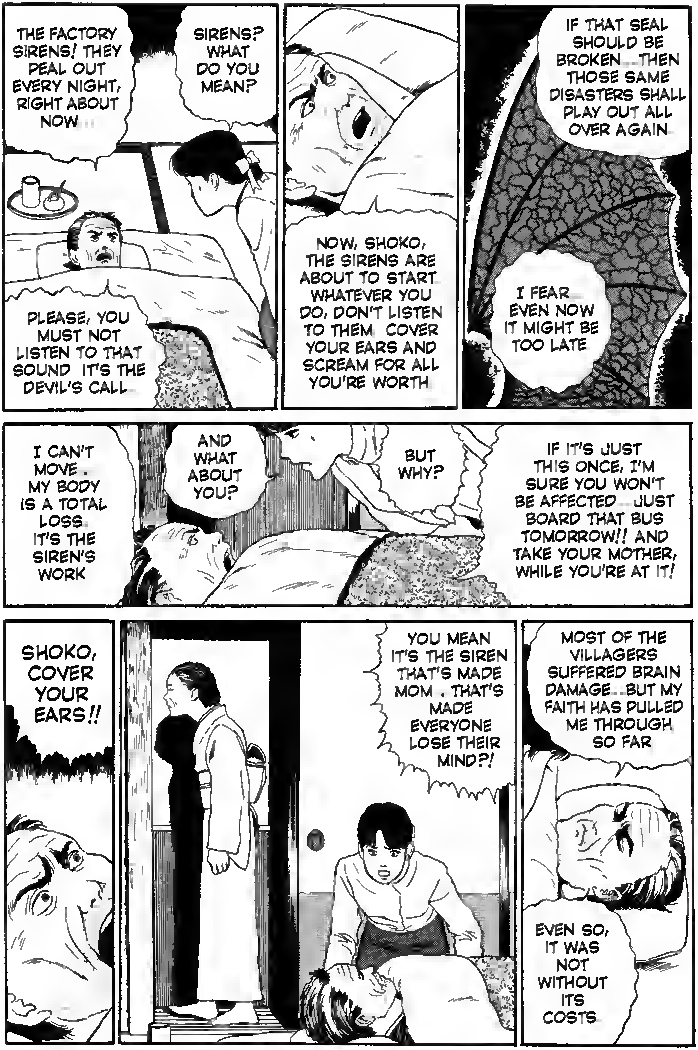
KYOICHI, YOU SHOULD DO IT TOO, RIGHT AWAY!
WHY DID YOU... DO THAT?
OTHER-WISE, THE SIREN...
OH, MY EARS? I DID IT MYSELF.
I USED A STICK... SO I'M ALL RIGHT NOW...
YUKARI, LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EARS?
THE SIREN'S ABOUT TO START!
AHH... IT'S ALMOST SUNSET!!
MOM AND DAD... THEY'VE BEEN EATEN. .
I SAW IT.
THE SIREN?
HEY... HEY, YUKARI!
I'M GOING HOME!
YUKA-RI!

MY MOM WASN'T HERSELF ANY-MORE
YOU AND MY DAD... YOU'RE THE ONLY NORMAL ONES. EVERYONE ELSE IS SO STRANGE.
I... I'M LOSING MY MIND...
KYOI-CHI!
THIS WHOLE PLACE IS UPSIDE-DOWN.
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY DAD YET...
YEAH, SAME WITH MY MOM.
FLUP FLUP FLUP
APPAR-ENTLY...
I KNOW I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO COMMENT. I ABANDONED THE PLACE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE...
HE MUST'VE...
BUT... HE'S CHANGED, TOO
SO HE'S WORKING FOR THE FACTORY?
WHY ELSE WOULD HE HAVE QUIT THE FARM? IT WAS HIS PASSION...

バタバタバタ
FLOP FLOP FLOP
IT'S TOO BIG FOR A BAT...I MEAN, WAY TOO BIG...
WHAT THE HELL IS IT? LET'S FOLLOW...
SHOKO... LOOK UP THERE
YOU WANT TO CHASE SHADOWS, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!! GOOD-BYE
IT'S ALL WRONG HERE... I I'M GOING HOME
I CAN'T TAKE THIS.
NO.
バサバサバサ
FLOP FLOP FLOP
I JUST CAN'T

IT'S KIND OF LIKE A PTERO-DACTYL I GUESS...
WHERE'S IT HEADED?
THE EUROPEAN KIND, LIKE IN THOSE OCCULT BOOKS IN YUKARI'S ROOM.
BUT ACTUALLY, I...THINK I'M MORE REMINDED OF A DEVIL...
HUH!
WHAT IN THE WORLD?!

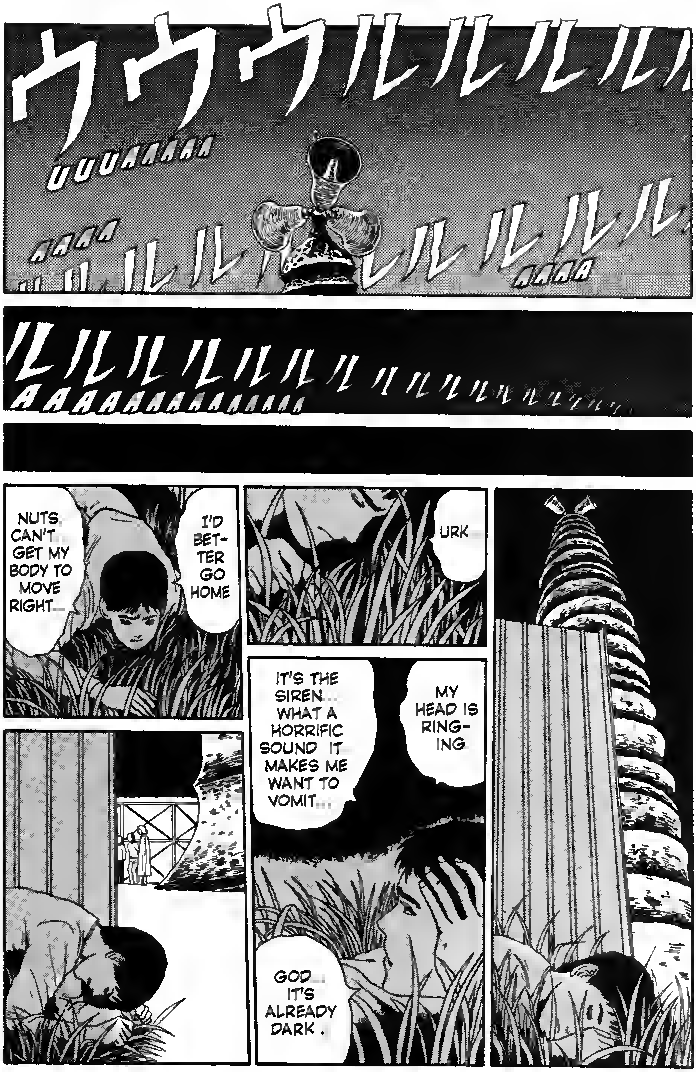
SHOKO TOMORROW, BOARD THE FIRST BUS AND LEAVE THIS VILLAGE THAT'S AN ORDER
SO... THE PRIEST IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
DAD...
AS THE OLD RECORDS HAVE IT, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE MISSIONARIES CAME TO OUR VILLAGE--AND WITH THEM CAME A SORCERER
WHAT KIND OF SEAL?
THERE'S A CHANCE IT WAS HAIYAMA WHO TORCHED THE CHURCH... FOR THAT MATTER, HE COULD HAVE BROKEN THE SEAL IN THE BASEMENT
SINCE HAIYAMA HAS BEEN IN CONTROL, EVERYTHING HAS GONE FUNNY
WHEN THEY COULD BEAR NO MORE, THE VILLAGERS WORKED WITH THE MISSIONARIES, DEFEATED DORMAN, AND DROVE AWAY TWO OF THE DEMONS THE THIRD, THEY SHUT UP IN THE CHURCH CELLAR.
HIS NAME WAS DORMAN. WITH HIS BLACK MAGIC, HE BROUGHT THREE DEMONS UPON THE VILLAGE, TO DO AS THEY WOULD.
THE DEMONS LIT FIRE TO THE HOUSES, ATE HALF THE VILLAGERS, AND CONTROLLED THE REST WITH THEIR TERRIBLE SCREAMS


THE FACTORY SIRENS! THEY PEAL OUT EVERY NIGHT, RIGHT ABOUT NOW...
SIRENS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PLEASE, YOU MUST NOT LISTEN TO THAT SOUND IT'S THE DEVIL'S CALL
NOW, SHOKO, THE SIRENS ARE ABOUT TO START WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T LISTEN TO THEM COVER YOUR EARS AND SCREAM FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH
IF THAT SEAL SHOULD BE BROKEN...THEN THOSE SAME DISASTERS SHALL PLAY OUT ALL OVER AGAIN
I FEAR EVEN NOW IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE
I CAN'T MOVE. MY BODY IS A TOTAL LOSS. IT'S THE SIREN'S WORK
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
BUT WHY?
IF IT'S JUST THIS ONCE, I'M SURE YOU WON'T BE AFFECTED...JUST BOARD THAT BUS TOMORROW!! AND TAKE YOUR MOTHER, WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!
SHOKO, COVER YOUR EARS!!
YOU MEAN IT'S THE SIREN THAT'S MADE MOM. THAT'S MADE EVERYONE LOSE THEIR MIND?!
MOST OF THE VILLAGERS SUFFERED BRAIN DAMAGE...BUT MY FAITH HAS PULLED ME THROUGH SO FAR
EVEN SO, IT WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS COSTS

WUU
UUU
AAAA
AAAA

WUUUUAAAA
AAAAAAA
AAAA
AAHH!
AHH!
AAAA
WUUUUUUAAAAA

ウウウルルルルル
WUUU...
MOM, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
ルルルル...
YAMAUCHI
AAA!
ウウウ
WUUUUU
ウウルルルルルル
UUUAAAAA
DEAD END STREET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UUUAAAAA
AAAA
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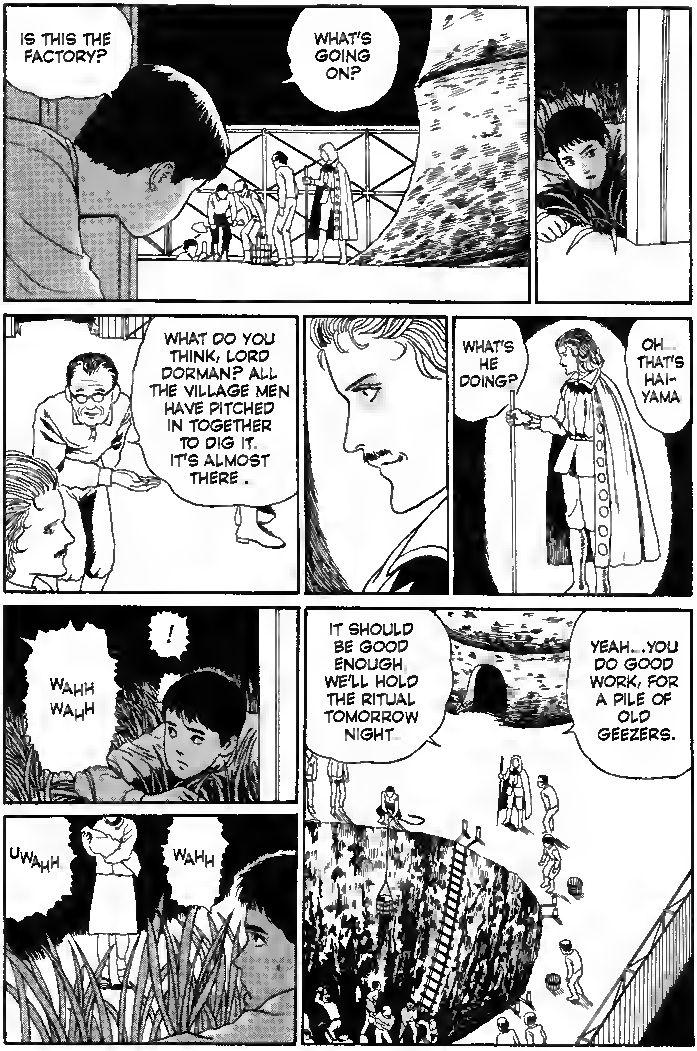
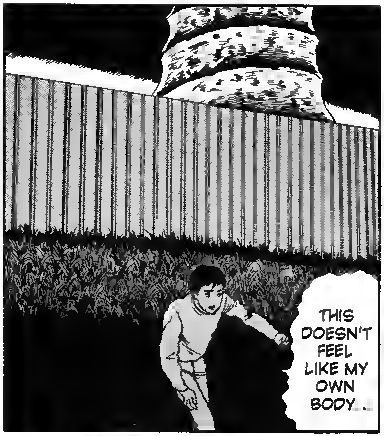

IS THIS THE FACTORY?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LORD DORMAN? ALL THE VILLAGE MEN HAVE PITCHED IN TOGETHER TO DIG IT. IT'S ALMOST THERE.
WHAT'S HE DOING?
OH... THAT'S HAI-YAMA
!
WAHH WAHH
IT SHOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH WE'LL HOLD THE RITUAL TOMORROW NIGHT.
YEAH...YOU DO GOOD WORK, FOR A PILE OF OLD GEEZERS.
UWAHH
WAHH

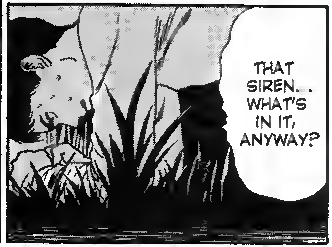
WAHH WAHH
A BABY!
UWAHH
UWAHH
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE BABIES? SURELY THEY CAN'T BE THEIRS...
WAHH
THOSE ARE ALL WOMEN FROM THE VILLAGE...
NO... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE THE KIDNAPPINGS ARE HAPPENING ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY--FAR AWAY FROM HERE
OH, NO... THAT NEWS REPORT. THIS CAN'T BE RELATED... CAN IT?
ONE OF THOSE WAS MY MOTHER
WOMAN AFTER WOMAN ARRIVED THAT NIGHT WITH A BABY AND ENTERED THE LOOMING TOWER
BUT THEN WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

HOW COULD THE VILLAGERS... HOW COULD MY MOTHER DO SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE?
THE BABIES.. STOPPED THEIR CRYING
I'D RATHER NOT SPEAK ABOUT WHAT I SAW NEXT.
ボトポト
DRUP DRUP
NOOO! LORD DORMAN!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
JUST TAKE HER TO HIM!
I HEAR NO EXCUSES
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME... FAMILIES ARE MORE WARY NOW...
YOU FAILED TO BRING A SACRIFICE TONIGHT, IS THAT RIGHT?

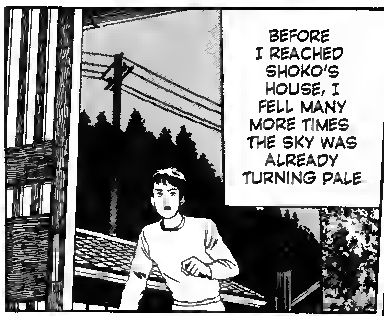
UWAHH!!
AHH...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
LORD DORMAN, YESTERDAY I SAW THE DAUGHTER OF THE OLD CHIEF.
DOES ANY HERE KNOW OF A GIRL TO FIT THE BILL?
IT SHOULD HARDLY BE NOTED THAT TOMORROW EVE WE SHALL NEED A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN AS SACRIFICE.
AT LONG LAST. WE HAVE THE MEANS TO CALL FORTH OUR DARK LORD.
...SAC-RIFICE ?!
SHO-KO'S IN BIG TROUBLE
MAKE SURE SHE'S WITH YOU TOMOR-ROW NIGHT.
WHAT, SHOKO? HERE? HOW PER-FECT!
HA HA HA.


THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE MY OWN BODY...

DAMN... MY BODY...
I'D BETTER WARN HER RIGHT AWAY.

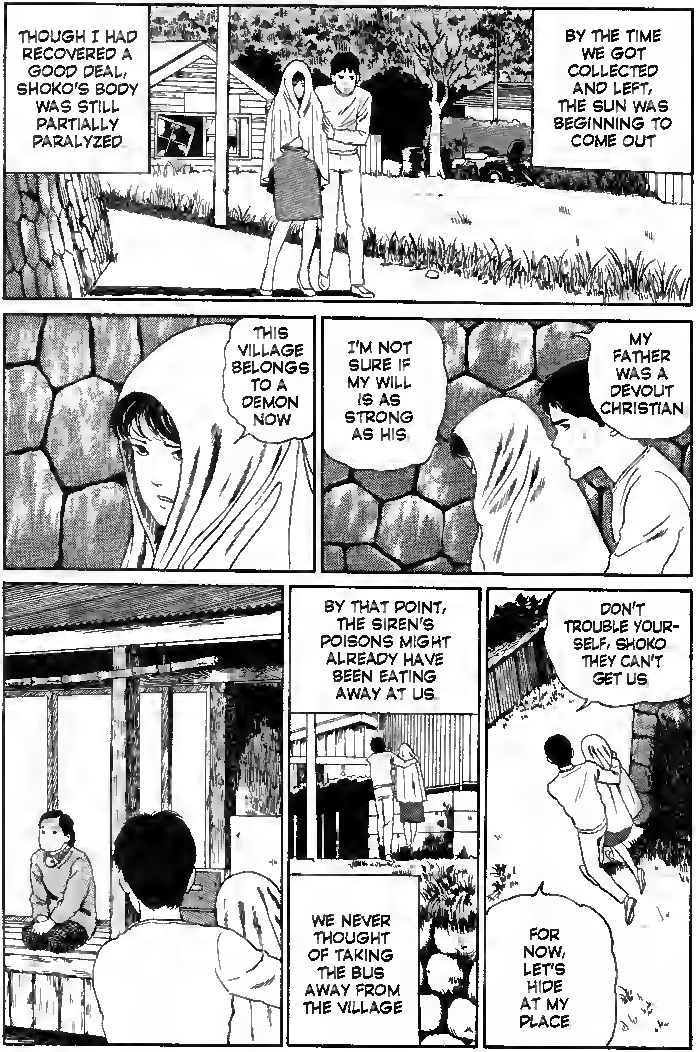

THAT SIREN... WHAT'S IN IT, ANYWAY?

AWK!


BEFORE I REACHED SHOKO'S HOUSE, I FELL MANY MORE TIMES THE SKY WAS ALREADY TURNING PALE.

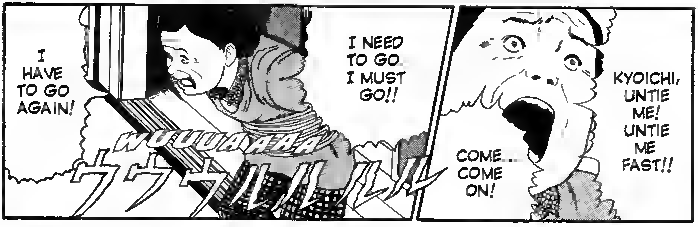
HAIYAMA... IT'S ALL HIS DOING...
THIS IS ABNORMAL IT'S CRAZY THE WHOLE VILLAGE HAS GONE MAD.
EVEN MY MOM... GOD, HOW COULD SHE DO SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS...

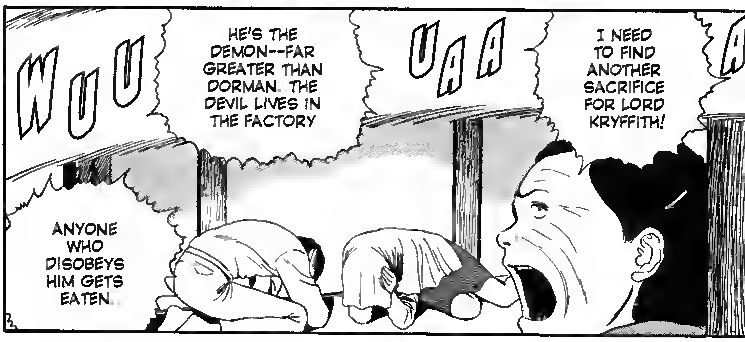
KYO-ICHI...
SHO-KO!
SHOKO!
HEY, SHOKO!
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!
KYOICHI, MY FATHER...
BUT LAST NIGHT, FINALLY HIS STRENGTH GAVE WAY...
AND RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO THE DEVIL, HE... HE CHOSE DEATH.
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, MY FATHER FOUGHT AGAINST THE SIREN.
HEY, CHIEF!
CHIEF!


THOUGH I HAD RECOVERED A GOOD DEAL, SHOKO'S BODY WAS STILL PARTIALLY PARALYZED
BY THE TIME WE GOT COLLECTED AND LEFT, THE SUN WAS BEGINNING TO COME OUT
THIS VILLAGE BELONGS TO A DEMON NOW
I'M NOT SURE IF MY WILL IS AS STRONG AS HIS
MY FATHER WAS A DEVOUT CHRISTIAN
BY THAT POINT, THE SIREN'S POISONS MIGHT ALREADY HAVE BEEN EATING AWAY AT US
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF, SHOKO THEY CAN'T GET US
WE NEVER THOUGHT OF TAKING THE BUS AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE
FOR NOW, LET'S HIDE AT MY PLACE

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL BEFORE YOU CAME DOWN? HM?
OH, KYOICHI YOU'RE HOME
WHO IS SHE?
BABY? WHAT BABY?
MOM... LAST NIGHT, WHERE DID YOU FIND THAT BABY?
THIS ISN'T VERY NICE
WHY ARE YOU TYING ME UP?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET
WHERE'S DAD?
YOUR FATHER IS AT THE FACTORY, OF COURSE HE WORKS THERE
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
ANYWAY, WHO IS SHE? YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?

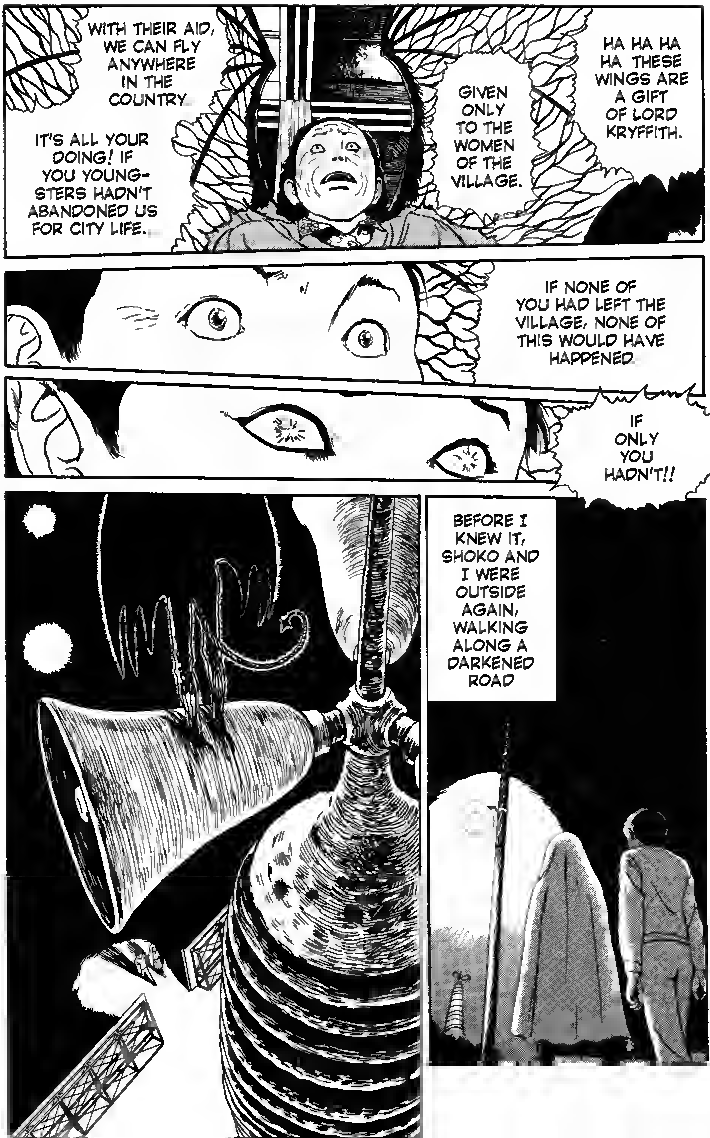
AAAA
AHH.
ウウウウウウ
WUUUUUUU
ルルルルルルルルルル
AAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAA
THAT NIGHT THE SIREN WAILED ANEW.


I HAVE TO GO AGAIN!
I NEED TO GO. I MUST GO!!
KYOICHI, UNTIE ME! UNTIE ME FAST!!
COME.. COME ON!
MUUUAAAA
ウウルルルルル


WUU
HE'S THE DEMON--FAR GREATER THAN DORMAN. THE DEVIL LIVES IN THE FACTORY
UAA
I NEED TO FIND ANOTHER SACRIFICE FOR LORD KRYFFITH!
ANYONE WHO DISOBEYS HIM GETS EATEN.

THE SOUND IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST. IT'S THE VOICE OF LORD KRYFFITH
UAA
THERE'S NO USE COVERING YOUR EARS
THOSE LOUDSPEAKERS BROADCAST IT AT THE LOUDEST SETTING.
IF I DON'T BRING THE SACRIFICE, HE'LL EAT ME.
HA HA HA HA! HALF THE VILLAGE IS ALREADY GONE... YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN EATEN, TOO
OUR LORD IS TO MAKE HIS APPEAR-ANCE TONIGHT.
WUU
YOU ARE...SHOKO, AREN'T YOU. YOU'RE TO BE OFFERED TO OUR DARK LORD
HE IS TO RISE FORTH FROM HIS POOL OF INNOCENT BLOOD.
AAA
A
RIP
KYO-ICHI...
AAAA
QUICKLY! MY WINGS... MY WINGS ARE ABOUT TO .
FREE ME FROM THESE ROPES! PLEASE, YOU MUST!
AAA
AND THEN .. HE WILL RULE THE WORLD
SHO-KO!

RIP
SHRIP
SHRIP
RIP
...
FLUP
FLUP
HA
HA
HA
HA.


WITH THEIR AID, WE CAN FLY ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.
IT'S ALL YOUR DOING! IF YOU YOUNGSTERS HADN'T ABANDONED US FOR CITY LIFE.
GIVEN ONLY TO THE WOMEN OF THE VILLAGE.
HA HA HA HA THESE WINGS ARE A GIFT OF LORD KRYFFITH.
IF NONE OF YOU HAD LEFT THE VILLAGE, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
IF ONLY YOU HADN'T!!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, SHOKO AND I WERE OUTSIDE AGAIN, WALKING ALONG A DARKENED ROAD

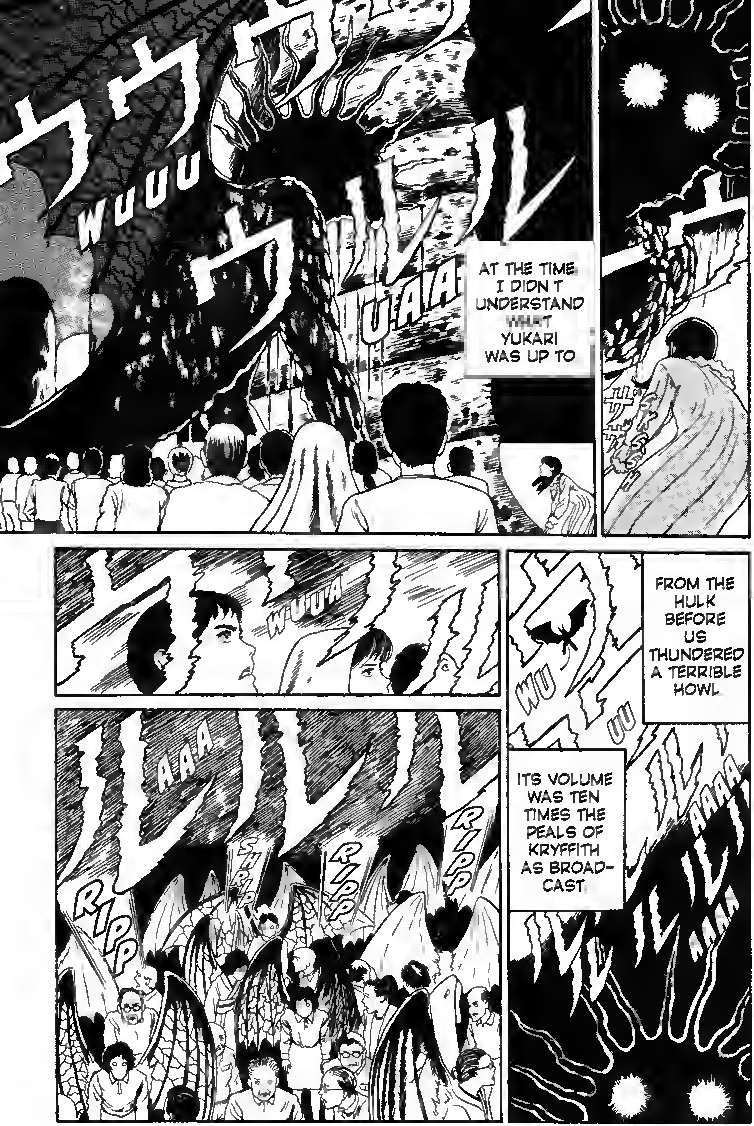
ザラー
SPOOSH
ザン
SLASH
ザッ
FOOSH
メラメラ
AND THE RITUAL BEGAN, CALLING FORTH THEIR DARK LORD.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN KRYFFITH.
ABOVE US SWOOPED A DEVIL, CAUGHT IN THE THROES OF ECSTASY.

BRING FORTH THE GIRL...
I WATCHED, COMPLETELY IMPOTENT.
IT WAS YUKARI.
THEY MUST HAVE MEANT HER TO REPLACE SHOKO.
PLEASE GRACE OUR EYES WITH YOUR DARK FORM.
OHH!
O GREAT FUDO!!

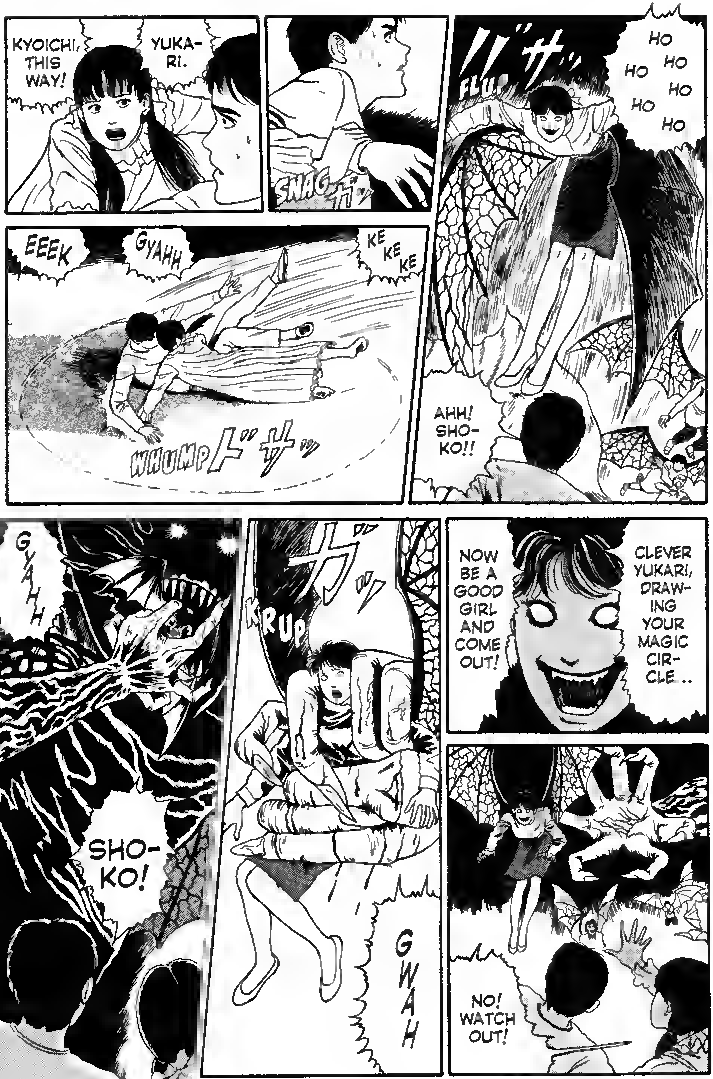
ブクブク
BLUB BLOP
ブクブク
BLIP LU..P
SLOSH
OHH!
OH... LUFUDO.
FLOMP
BEHOLD-- I OFFER YOU A FRESH, RIPE MAIDEN.
SPLOOPSH

ACH!
PLEASE, ENJOY HER!
NO. LORD LUFUDO, NO! IT'S ME! I'M DORMAN!
THAT BITCH! WHY DOESN'T THE MAGIC WORK?!
OHH.
GWAH.
GWAK.
THAT GIRL IS THE SACRIFICE!!

EEP.
FLOMP
FLOMP
WUU
SPLOSSH
KE KE KE KE KE KE KE KE
SKSSSHH


WUUU
AT THE TIME I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YUKARI WAS UP TO
FROM THE HULK BEFORE US THUNDERED A TERRIBLE HOWL
IT'S VOLUME WAS TEN TIMES THE PEALS OF KRYFFITH AS BROADCAST

THE WOMEN TOOK WING, TO DEVOUR THE MEN.
GNACK
AEE
AND THEN..
GRRRR
SHRIPP
SHOKO...
HEY, SHOKO..


KYOICHI, THIS WAY!
YUKARI.
SNAG
HO HO HO HO HO HO
AHH! SHOKO!!
EEEK
GYAHH
KE KE KE
WHUMP
GYAHH
SHOKO!
KRUP
GWAH
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL AND COME OUT!
CLEVER YUKARI, DRAWING YOUR MAGIC CIRCLE..
NO! WATCH OUT!

IIIGLUP
KYOICHI, DON'T LEAVE THE CIRCLE! THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE THAT'S SAFE. THE DEMONS CAN'T TOUCH YOU HERE!
SHOKO!
MY HEART HELD NO DOUBT THAT THE DEMON HAD LEFT TOWN FOR THE BIG CITY, WITH ALL HIS MINIONS IN TOW, BRINGING HIS CLOUD OF DARKNESS WHEREVER HE WENT.
AND I KNEW A HEINOUS EVENT WAS ABOUT TO OCCUR.
FOR SHOKO. FOR SWEET, KIND, BEAUTIFUL SHOKO, THAT WAS NO WAY TO GO. IT WAS TOO FAST AND TOO SAD.
BEFORE LONG, THE SIRENS WOULD SOUND THEIR TERRIBLE CRY ACROSS THE GLOBE...
THE DEMONS CIRCLED IN THE SKY ABOVE THE VILLAGE, THEN EVENTUALLY FLEW OFF TO THE EAST.

TRANSLATED BY NEGGIE • SCANLATED BY SLUG CHICKS

SUPER-NATURAL EVENTS SURELY EXIST!
NON-BELIEVERS JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED IT YET.
CLINK
BUT WHAT A DULL WORLD THIS WOULD BE IF THERE WERE NO BELIVERS.
SURELY BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS CAN RECONCILE
THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THE ENRICHMENT THE HEART FEELS WHEN ACCEPTING SUPERNATURAL EVENTS.

HIKARU SHIBAYAMA
HOW-EVER...
THE EVI-DENCE WILL SPEAK FOR IT-SELF.
KIYOSHI KOTAGAWA
IWAI KATSUKO
MIYOKO WATANABE
MAIKO HOSOTANI
ポロッ POP
SHAKE ぐら
SHAKE ぐら

CLAP
パチパチ
CLAP
CLAP
PHEW.
チャリン
CLINK
ONLY BELIEVERS WILL BE SAVED.
HEHEH, BUT ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING, SHIBAYAMA-KUN?
THIS IS ACTUALLY SOMETHING I PRACTICE CALLED "AWOKEN ABILITY" AND SINCE I HAVE DEMONSTRATED IT HERE, IT MAKES SENSE TO ACCEPT ITS EXISTENCE, BUT ...
BUT TO LOVE AND STUDY SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON, RIGHT?
AND AS THE SUPERNATURAL CLUB, OUR AIM IS NOT TO CONVINCE THEM.
NON-BELIEVERS JUST WON'T BELIEVE THEY'LL SAY IT WAS A TRICK SOMEHOW.

WOW!
ACTUALLY IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT OUR VERY OWN SUPERNATURAL CLUB'S LEADER, SHIBAYAMA HIKARU, WILL BE MAKING A TV APPEARANCE!
WHAT?
THAT ASIDE, WE HAVE GOOD NEWS TODAY!
A CELEBRITY EMERGES FROM THE SUPER-NATURAL CLUB AT LAST!
AWESOME! THE ESP BOY MAKES HIS DEBUT!
AND THEY INVITED ME TO BE A GUEST.
IT SEEMS THAT OOZORA TV IS HAVING A SPECIAL ON ESP ..
BUT GRADUALLY YOU'LL BECOME FAMOUS!
FIRST THEY'LL WONDER WHO YOU ARE
WELL, IT'LL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.
GASP
THAT'S AMAZING SHIBAYAMA-KUN ..

OH NO, MINE AREN'T THAT GREAT.
THAT'S RIGHT. KITAGAWA-KUN ALSO HAS PSYCHIC POWERS
KITAGAWA-KUN IS NO PUSHOVER, EITHER.
THEY LOOK PEACEFUL.
OH ...
BUT YOU CAN SEE OUR INNER SPIRITS, RIGHT?
YEAH, HOW DO OUR INNER SPIRITS LOOK TODAY?
GREAT!
MY TREAT!
OH, IT'S COMPLETELY UNRELATED, BUT IT SEEMS A TRANSFER STUDENT IS COMING TO OUR CLASS TOMORROW.
HEY! LET'S GO ALL OUT WITH OUR CELEBRATION TODAY!

EVERYONE, PLEASE GET ALONG WELL.
THIS IS TSUKANO RYOU-KUN FROM TODAY ON HE IS A MEMBER OF OUR CLASS.
HE'S LIKE AN OLD MAN!
MY HOBBY IS GOING FOR WALKS
I CAME FROM KYU-SHU.
THANK YOU ... I'M TSU-KANO.

VERY MYSTERIOUS EXPERIENCES ARE OUT THERE, EVERYONE
WHEN I GO FOR WALKS I MAKE VARIOUS DISCOVERIES
WHAT A WEIRDO!
HA HA HA
HAHA, MAYBE. BUT HE IS A BIT ECCENTRIC, NO?
THE KID WHO TRANSFERRED TODAY SEEMS LIKE HE WOULD GET ALONG WITH US.
HEY

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
LOOK.
HEY, TSUKANO-KUN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR NEW SCHOOL?
I'M SHIBAYAMA, AND THIS IS HOSOTANI-KUN. WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU.

I'M VERY PLEASED. NOT JUST WITH THE SCHOOL, BUT WITH THE WHOLE TOWN AS WELL.
SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE MYSTERIOUS EXPERIENCES ARE LIKELY TO HAPPEN HERE.
BY THE WAY, US LOVERS OF MYSTERIOUS THINGS HAVE FORMED A GROUP.
WE CALL IT THE SUPER-NATURAL CLUB.
IS THAT SO? I'VE LIVED IN THIS TOWN ALL MY LIFE BUT THERE ARE NO INTERESTING PLACES IN PARTICULAR
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S A PRETTY BORING TOWN FOR US.
IF IT INTERESTS YOU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
REALLY?
YOU WON'T BE BORED.

REALLY ?!
HE'S SET TO APPEAR ON TV
THIS GUY HERE IS A PSYCHIC
DON'T BE SURPRISED TSUKANO-KUN
IT'S SETTLED THEN
CERTAINLY! I'D LOVE TO IF YOU'LL ACCEPT ME.
THAT'S SO AMA-ZING!
WELL I WOULDN'T SAY A PSYCHIC I'M NOT AS FULL-FLEDGED AS THAT.
TRANS-FERRING SCHOOLS HAS REALLY ALLOWED FOR GREAT EXPERI-ENCES
SURE AFTER SCHOOL LET'S HAVE A WELCOME PARTY AND I CAN SHOW YOU THEN
BY ALL MEANS, PLEASE SHOW ME!
WH-WHAT IS IT?
AH!

LOOK
THIS STRANGE FLOWER!
LOOK AT THIS
KYAA! AN EYEBALL!

WAH!
TAKE A LOOK! THIS ISN'T BORING AT ALL, RIGHT?
HOW CREEPY
SINCE WHEN DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS GROW HERE?
LA LA LA
I'M SO HAPPY!
THIS TOWN IS AMAZING!

LET US INTRODUCE THE NEWEST MEMBER OF SUPERNATURAL CLUB.
THIS IS TSUKANO RYOU-KUN.
LET'S GET ALONG.
YES, LET'S.
NOW, LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS SURPRISING SUPER-NATURAL PLANT.
FIRST I TRIED TO DISSECT THE EYEBALL ITSELF.
I MADE IT TO THE CRYSTALLINE LENS.
HM.
DO YOU SEE SOMETHING, KITAGAWA-KUN?
YEAH

WELL, ONLY THAT MUCH
AMA-ZING
HUH? YOU CAN SEE SPIRITS?
I CAN SEE THE FIGURE OF AN UN-RESTFUL SPIRIT.
IT'S THE BOUND SPIRIT OF A SAMURAI THAT TRANSFERRED TO THE SPOT WHERE THOSE PLANTS GREW IN ABUNDANCE.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CAN'T FOCUS MY MIND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY
AND NOW FOR SPOON BENDING
I CAN'T DO IT ALL THE TIME.
WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TODAY
I WONDER...

BRAVO!
PHEW.
ポロッ
POP
チャリン
HEY, SHIBAYAMA-KUN! LET ME TRY!
EH? CAN YOU DO IT?
YES, AMAZING!
HE'S INCREDIBLE, RIGHT?
OKAY, TSU-KANO-KUN!
PICTURE THE BROKEN SPOON IN YOUR MIND.
THAT'S THE ONLY SURE TIP I CAN GIVE YOU.
HAHAHA, YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY, RIGHT?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!

BREAK, BREAK
AH
ポロッ
POP
BREAK
AHAH IT'S A JOKE. A JOKE
SORRY, JUST A BIT OF A JOKE
AHAH HAH HAH HAH
TSUKANO-KUN, THAT'S AMAZING. YOU HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS TOO?

TRICKED US?
SIMPLY PUT, I TRICKED YOU
A JOKE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH, WELL ACTUALLY...
THE NECK OF THE SPOON BECOMES BRITTLE, READY TO BREAK AT ANY MOMENT.
I DID IT WITH BRUTE STRENGTH.
I BENT ONE OF THE SPOONS AT THE NECK BACK AND FORTH BEFOREHAND LIKE THIS.
YEAH, I JUST USED MENTAL FATIGUE.
THEN WHEN I SEE THE TIMING IS RIGHT, WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING, I QUICKLY SWITCH IT WITH THE ONE THAT BECAME FRAGILE BEFOREHAND.
ONCE MORE I PRETEND TO FOCUS TELEKINESIS ON A DIFFERENT SPOON.
THEN...
I STOP RIGHT AS IT'S ABOUT TO BREAK AND HIDE IT QUIETLY AWAY.

IT POPS RIGHT OFF!
SINCE IT'S BRITTLE, WITH JUST A LITTLE PRESSURE AT MY FINGERTIPS AND A BIT OF VIBRATION, THERE WE GO!
I DO IT THE SAME WAY AS A MAGICIAN
IF YOU PRACTICE SLEIGHT OF HAND OVER AND OVER IT'S EASY!
SERIOUSLY. IT LOOKED JUST LIKE WHEN SHIBAYAMA-KUN DID IT
HUH? BUT WHEN DID YOU SWITCH IT? I DIDN'T NOTICE AT ALL.
REALLY ...?
BUT SINCE I DON'T HAVE ESP I CAN ONLY USE A TRICK LIKE THAT
OF COURSE!
JUST TO BE CLEAR.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M ACTUALLY USING TELEKINESIS

SHALL WE WRAP IT UP HERE?
WELL — IT'S ALREADY LATE
SOUNDS GOOD I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.
FOR SURE!
RIGHT! NO MISUNDERSTANDING HERE, SHIBAYAMA-KUN!

OH, KITAGAWA-KUN
WOW, IT'S STRANGE TO SEE YOU BY YOURSELF, HOSOTANI-KUN.
REALLY? THAT'S UNUSUAL FOR HIM
HIS TELEVISION APPEARANCE IS COMING UP SOON IT SEEMS HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO MANY PEOPLE.
HE'S IN THE CLASSROOM FOCUSING HIS MIND.
WHAT'S UP WITH SHIBA-YAMA-KUN?
FOCUSING HIS MIND?

BUT THE ESSENCE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
HIS "MAGIC" LAST NIGHT
HE DID THE EXACT SAME THING AS SHIBAYAMA-KUN.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT TRANSFER STUDENT HAS REALLY SHAKEN THINGS UP.
HE HE HE
KITAGAWA-KUN... YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE DOUBTING SHIBAYAMA-KUN, RIGHT?!
WELL... I HOPE THAT'S THE CASE...
OH, HOTOSANI-KUN AND KITAGAWA-KUN ARE OVER HERE
NOT AT ALL, YOU'RE MIS-UNDERSTANDING

THIS TOWN HAS AN AMAZING WATER-FALL.
THIS MORNING ON MY WALK I DISCOVERED SOMETHING
WATER-FALL ?
I WENT TO SEE SHIBAYAMA-KUN BUT HE WASN'T REPLYING TO ME SO I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU INSTEAD, HOSOTANI-KUN
EH? YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT?
TODAY AFTER SCHOOL EVERYONE SHOULD COME LOOK WITH ME!
I WENT UP NORTH A LITTLE THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S BACK STREETS WHERE THERE'S A WATER-FALL, RIGHT?
HM
A WATER-FALL? I WONDER

IT'S AMAZING. STRANGE YOU NEVER NOTICED IT WAS THERE.
THE PATH IS THE SCHOOL'S MARATHON COURSE, BUT I NEVER NOTICED A WATERFALL.
IS THERE REALLY SOMETHING LIKE A WATERFALL?
LISTEN CLOSELY.
ドドドドド
CRASHH

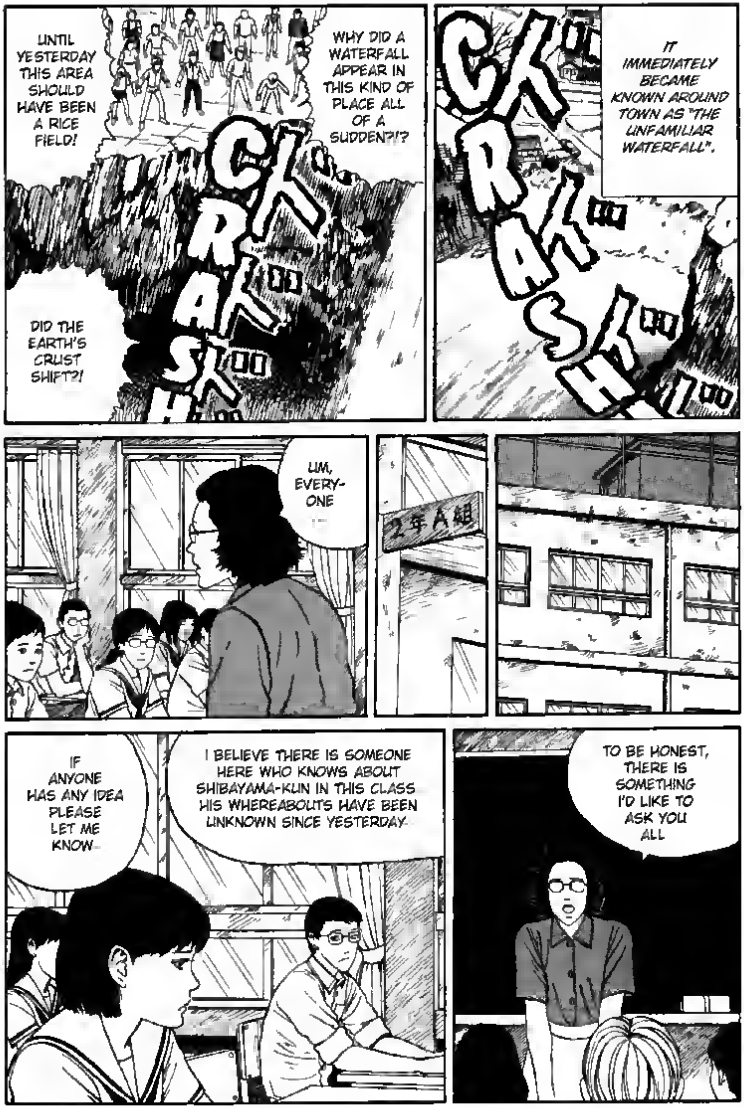
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A WATER-FALL!
IT'S TRUE!
"TORRASSHHHHHH"

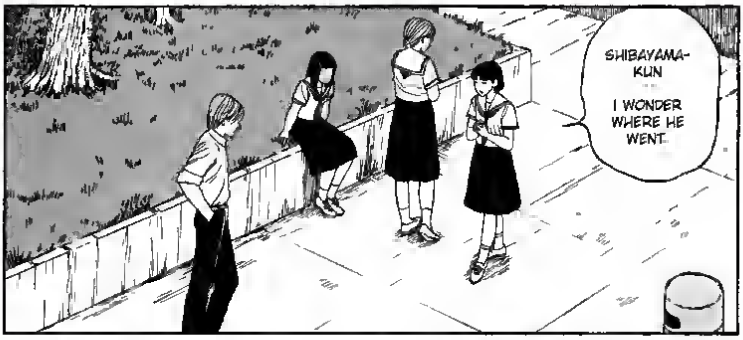
CRASH
WHY HAVE WE NEVER NOTICED THIS WATERFALL BEFORE?
CRASHHHH
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T TALK AGAIN.
THANK GOODNESS, SHIBAYAMA-KUN. YOU'RE TALKING AGAIN.
IT DEFINITELY HAS A SUPER-NATURAL FEEL
IT'S SUPER-NATURAL
WORRIED? WHY?
WELL, THAT'S NOT REALLY IT. TO TELL THE TRUTH, I'M WORRIED.
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU TOO. BUT I GUESS SINCE YOU'RE GOING ON TV YOU NEEDED TO GET SERIOUS.

NOW EVERYONE'S AN EXPERT I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL NOT DO IT AND PREVENT MORE MISUNDER-STANDINGS
I'M WONDERING IF VIEWERS NOWADAYS WOULD BE SURPRISED BY SPOON BENDING
SHIBAYAMA-KUN THIS WATERFALL IS MYS-TERIOUS
CRASHHH
HUH?
BUT IT'S DANGEROUS GETTING OVER THERE IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU'LL FALL HEADFIRST INTO THE BASIN
CRASH
THIS MORNING I TRIED TO GET HIT BY THE WATERFALL RIGHT OVER THERE

HM ?
THEN I GUESS SOMETHING HAPPENED.
ANY-WAYS
WATCH THIS
ビシッ
CRACK
BAM
BAM

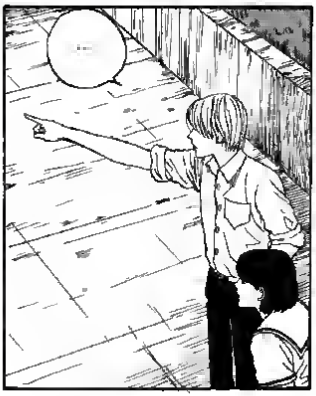
PLOP
TSUKANO-KUN
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
THE BIRD IS DEAD
NO WAY
WELL, I GUESS IT'S PROBABLY THE WATERFALL'S EFFECT.
WHEN YOU'RE HIT BY THIS WATERFALL MAYBE YOU ACQUIRE UNKNOWN POWERS.


UNTIL YESTERDAY THIS AREA SHOULD HAVE BEEN A RICE FIELD!
WHY DID A WATERFALL APPEAR IN THIS KIND OF PLACE ALL OF A SUDDEN?!?
DID THE EARTH'S CRUST SHIFT?!
CRASH
IT IMMEDIATELY BECAME KNOWN AROUND TOWN AS "THE UNFAMILIAR WATERFALL".
LIM, EVERY-ONE
2年A組
IF ANYONE HAS ANY IDEA PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
I BELIEVE THERE IS SOMEONE HERE WHO KNOWS ABOUT SHIBAYAMA-KUN IN THIS CLASS HIS WHEREABOUTS HAVE BEEN UNKNOWN SINCE YESTERDAY.
TO BE HONEST, THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ALL


SHIBAYAMA-KUN
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT.

KITAGAWA-KUN, CAN'T YOU USE YOUR POWERS TO FIND OUT SHIBAYAMA-KUN'S WHEREABOUTS?

LIKE THE EYEBALL PLANT, THE WATERFALL THAT APPEARED MYSTERIOUSLY
THERE'S BEEN SO MANY STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING LATELY.
AND TO TOP IT OFF, SHIBAYAMA-KUN'S DISAP-PEARANCE



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

ACTUALLY WHAT I'VE BEEN SENSING IS NOT VERY PLEASANT
YEAH

SPIRITUAL WAVELENGTHS? FROM WHERE?
I CAN FEEL HIS SPIRITUAL WAVELENGTHS IN THIS DIRECTION.
SHIBAYAMA-KUN IS IN THE BASIN OF THE WATERFALL.
I'LL SAY IT CLEARLY
THE BASIN OF THE WATERFALL?
CRASH

IT'S TOO LATE! HE'S BEYOND HELP.
THEN WE NEED TO HURRY AND SAVE HIM!
YES. IF MY VISION IS CORRECT THEN HE'S SUNK INTO THE WATER.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
IS HE REALLY HERE?
THERE'S NO HELPING WHAT I'M SENSING!
NO! YOU'RE LYING!
I THINK IT WILL PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REMOVE HIS REMAINS FROM THE BASIN.
HIS SPIRIT HAS ALREADY BECOME BOUND TO THIS PLACE.
KKKK
CRASHH
SHIBAYAMA-KUN

AH!
I SEE HIS SPIRIT CLEARLY OVER THERE!
HE MIGHT HAVE THROWN HIMSELF IN TO ESCAPE THE PRESSURE
HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT HIS OWN ESP
WHAT ?!
KITAGAWA-KUN, THAT'S WRONG, ISN'T IT?
SHIBAYAMA-KUN WAS TRYING TO GET HIT BY THE WATERFALL.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
SHIBAYAMA-KUN DIDN'T COMMIT SUICIDE!

CRASHH
AND HE FELL
HE WAS GOING TO GET HIT BY THIS WATERFALL AND TRY TO DRAW OUT UNKNOWN POWERS FROM WITHIN
NO
YOU GUYS, DID HE REALLY FALL INTO THIS WATERFALL?
DID ANYONE WITNESS IT?
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
UH-HUH
NO ONE WITNESSED IT, BUT WE THINK IT'S VERY LIKELY THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED

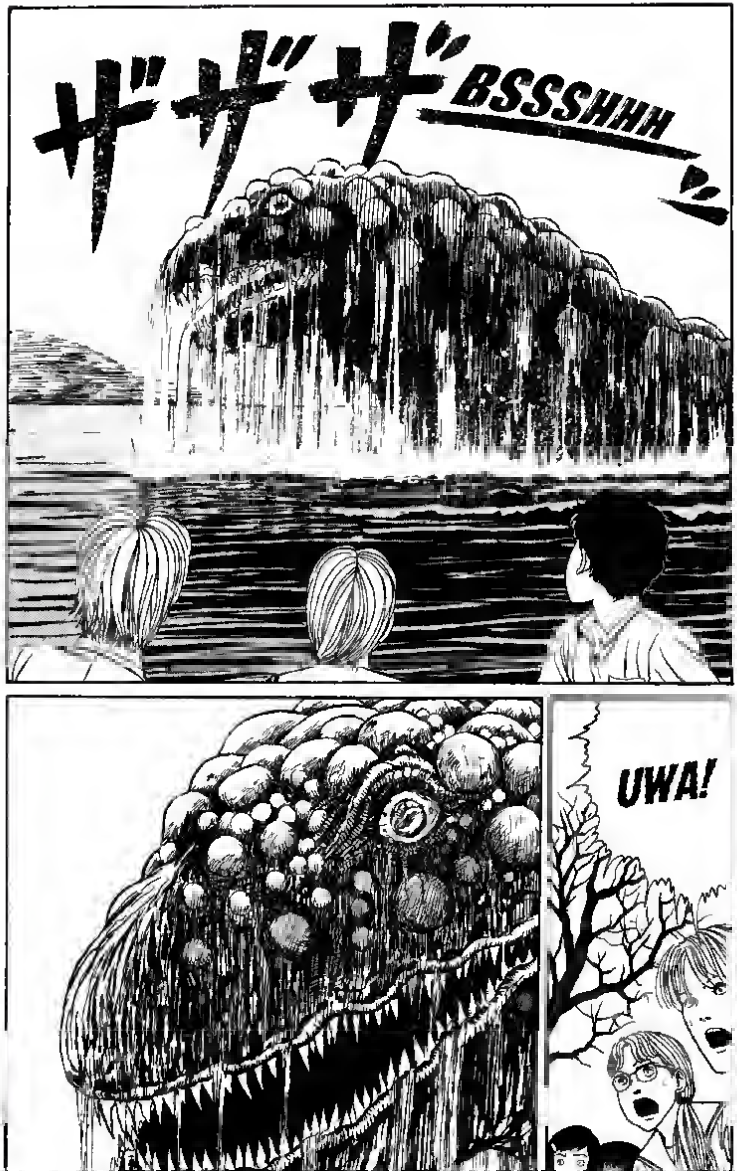
YES. THIS IS ALSO THE UNFAMILIAR WATERFALL.
THERE'S CONSIDERABLE FLOW BY THIS TIME.
WE SHOULDN'T NEED TO INVESTIAGTE THIS TOO CLOSELY BUT WE'LL TAKE IT INTO CONSIDERATION
CRASHHHH

BIG NEWS!
HEE-EEY!
I FEEL LIKE SCARY THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING MORE AND MORE LATELY.
COME WITH ME
SOMETHING HAPPENED! I WAS GOING FOR A WALK AND SAW SOMETHING AMAZING!
WHAT IS IT, TSUKANO-KUN?
HAA HAA
A LAKE?
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A MYSTERIOUS LAKE 1 KILOMETER BACK THERE!
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME ?
THAT'S WHERE I SAW IT!

LOOK, IT'S OVER HERE.
ザザ
WELL, IT WAS GREAT
I WONDER WHAT THE THING I SAW HERE EARLIER WAS.
IT'S CERTAINLY A LAKE
TH-THIS IS RIDICULOUS! THERE WASN'T A LAKE HERE! THIS WAS DEFINITELY A NEW RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH LOTS OF HOUSES! WHERE DID ALL THOSE PEOPLE GO?!

IF WE GET DOWN TO IT, HE WENT TO GET HIT BY IT BECAUSE OF YOU!
SHIBAYAMA-KUN MIGHT BE DEAD AT THAT WATERFALL YOU DISCOVERED!
TSUKANO-KUN, STOP IT.
HAHA, TAKE IT EASY, HOSOTANI-KUN
WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT HE'S DEAD!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE SAYING IT'S MY FAULT THAT HE DIED
WAIT A MIN-UTE
IN ANY EVENT, THAT WATERFALL IS A SUPERNATURAL ONE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN!
ISN'T IT FUNNY? AFTER ALL HE MAY BE REVIVED AGAIN!
AHAH HAH HAH HAH !!!
AHAH HAH HAH HAH !!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE IF HE'S DEAD!
TSUKANO-KUN, WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

WHY NOT ENJOY THIS OPPORTUNITY WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT?
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE IS SPLENDID. YOUR HEARTS SHOULD BE POUNDING!
AREN'T YOU MEMBERS OF THE SUPERNATURAL CLUB?
WHAT'S MADE YOU LOSE YOUR NERVE JUST NOW?
SPLASH
OF COURSE, DANGER IS OBVIOUSLY INVOLVED.
BUT IF WE'RE AFRAID OF DANGER, STUDIES OF THE SUPERNATURAL WOULD STOP ALTOGETHER!

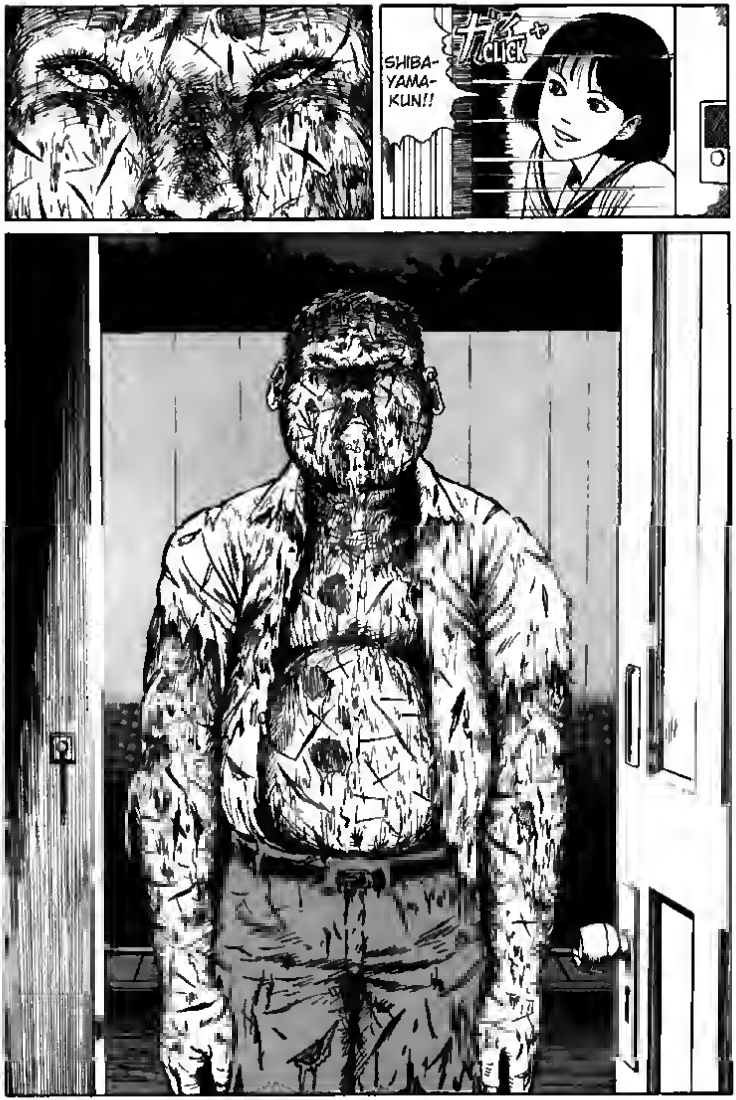

ザザザ
BSSSHHH
UWA!

A HUGE CREATURE FROM ANCIENT TIMES!
THAT'S IT! THE THING I SAW EARLIER!
LOOK! LOOK AT THAT!
SPLASH
JUST LIKE I THOUGHT! THEY DO EXIST IN MODERN TIMES!

THAT'S RIGHT TSUKANO RYOU AS SOON AS HE TRANSFERRED HERE THE STRANGE THINGS STARTED.
AFTER THAT PERSON TRANSFERRED HERE
THAT'S WHEN IT ALL STARTED
ABNORMAL EVENTS ARE STARTING TO HAPPEN IN THIS TOWN
CRASHHH!
ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN HIS DOING!
CRASHHH!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME!
SPLASH
SPLASH

チャポン
PLUNK
チャポン
PLUNK
ザバーン
SPLASH
CAN THE TWO OF YOU STAY HERE PLEASE? MY PARENTS AREN'T HOME SO I'M ALL ALONE TONIGHT
IT'S NIGHT-TIME
IS THAT OKAY, HOSOTANI-SAN?
I AGREE. I'M AFRAID TO GO BACK NOW, ANYWAYS
THEN LET'S STAY HERE WATA-NABE-SAN
OF COURSE! IT FEELS MORE REASSUING WITH YOU ALL HERE

IT'S SO LATE
WHO'S THAT?
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW?
I DON'T WANT TO GO I DON'T WANNA SEE TSUKANO.
THAT'S RIGHT HE'LL PROBABLY TAKE US TO A STRANGE PLACE AGAIN
IT'S ME... SHIBAYAMA.. PLEASE OPEN UP...
H-HEY MAI... IT'S ME... OPEN UP
KNOCK
KNOCK
SHIBAYAMA-KUN! WAIT THERE! I'LL OPEN UP!
HE'S ALIVE!
SHIBA-YAMA-KUN...?

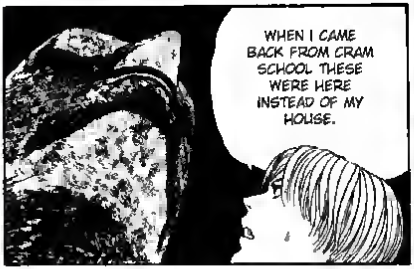

SHIBA-YAMA-KUN!!
ガチャ
CLICK

SLAM
GYAAA!!
I-I DON'T KNOW!
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW ?!
IT'S ME
IT'S ME —!
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
HEY
OPEN UP, MAI
THAT'S A
A DROWNED BODY!
A-ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S HIM?!
IT'S SHIBA-YAMA-KUN'S VOICE
KNOCK
KNOCK

BAM
GYA!!
MA!
...
THROUGH THE BACK DOOR!
MA!
...

HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE ARE WE RUNNING TO?
GOOD! LET'S ESCAPE TO THERE!
HEY! IF WE TURN THAT CORNER WE'LL BE AT KITAGAWA-KUN'S HOUSE!
AH!

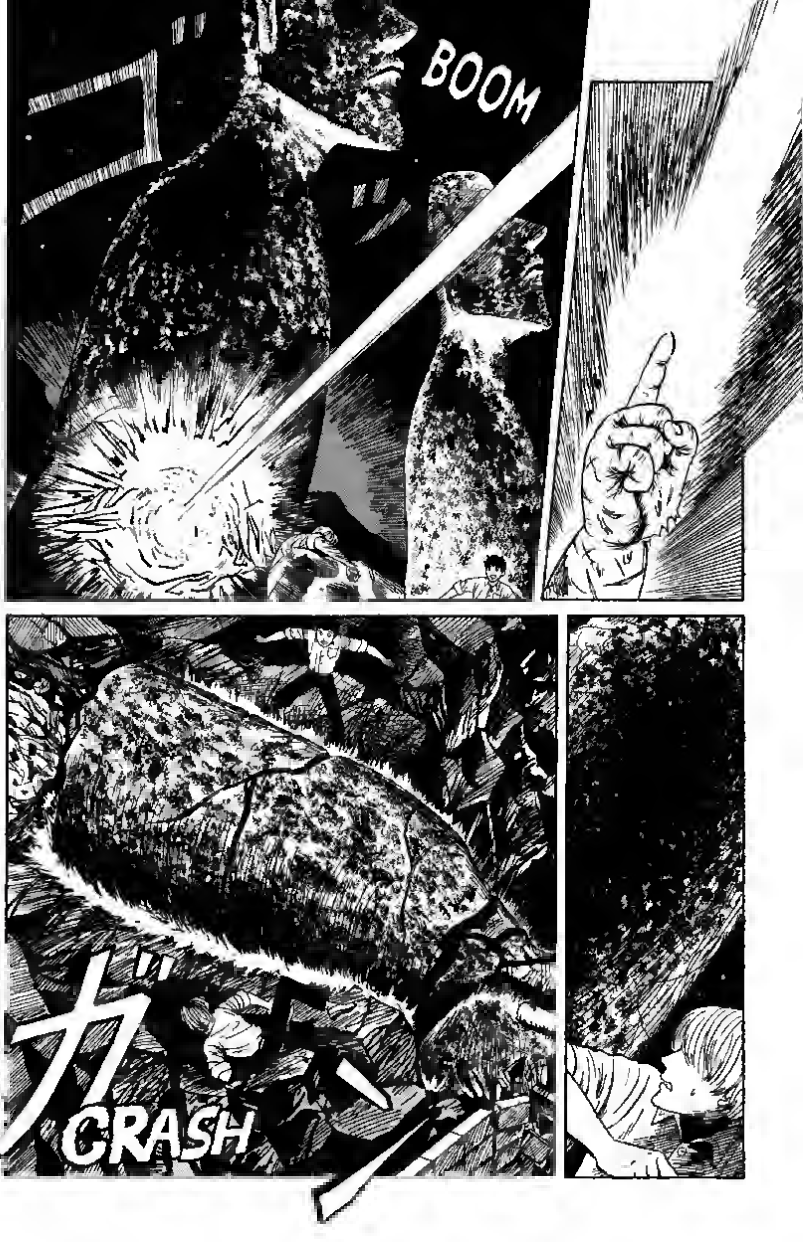
IT'S YOU GUYS!


WHEN I CAME BACK FROM CRAM SCHOOL THESE WERE WERE INSTEAD OF MY HOUSE.

AS EXPECTED OF MEMBERS OF THE SUPER-NATURAL CLUB
HEY, YOU GUYS CAME HERE TOO
LISTEN!
KITA-GAWA-KUN!
IT'S HIM! IT'S ALL HIS DOING!
TSUKANO-KUN IS CONVERTING THIS TOWN INTO A STRANGE WORLD!
MARVEL AT THESE MAG-NIFICENT RELICS!

PLEASE STOP WITH YOUR WEIRD ACCUSATIONS.
I'M CONVERTING THIS TOWN INTO A STRANGE WORLD?
WAH!
OH NO, WHAT IS THAT?!
I'M ONLY GOING ON WALKS IN SEARCH OF THE MYSTERIOUS!
TELL ME, HOW DID I MAKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
KYAAAAAA!!!
AAAAHH!!

KYA!!
WH-WHAT
HE REALLY SWELLED UP AND CAME BACK TO LIFE!
WAHAHA, SHIBAYAMA-KUN!
YOU'RE SHIBAYAMA-KUN?!
SHIBA-YAMA


BOOM
ガ
CRASH

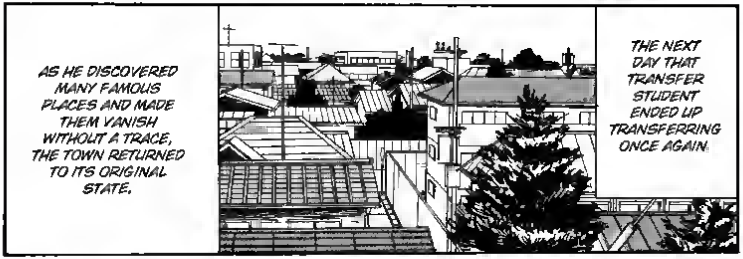
-WHOO-
THAT'S AMAZING!
EVEN AFTER YOU TURNED INTO A BLOATED CORPSE YOU STILL ACQUIRED A STRONG, MYSTERIOUS POWER!
BAM
THUD
BOOM

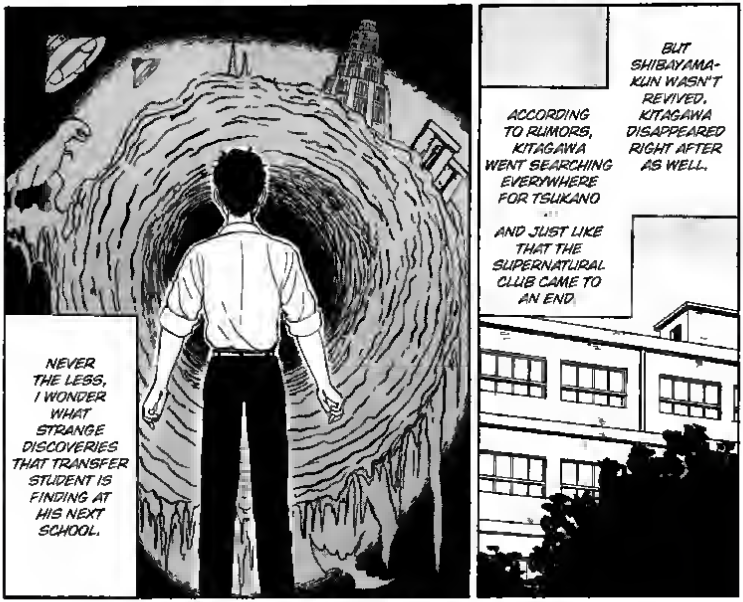
BAM
ビタッ PLOP
ビタッ PLOP
ビタッ PLOP
EEEK
BOOM

I WON'T LOSE TO A BASTARD LIKE YOU!
HAHA HAHAHA !!!
SHIBA-YAMA!
THIS TIME YOU DIE!
BAM!!

BOOM
AAH !!
OOH!
KITAGAWA-KUN!
YOU GOT HIM REAL GOOD, HUH?!

HEHE, I KNEW IT. YOU WENT TO THAT WATER-FALL, RIGHT?
I SAW IT — EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THEN.
HOW YOU PUSHED HIM WHEN HE WENT TO GET HIT BY IT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
IN THE END IT WAS JUST YOU THAT GOT HIT BY IT.
HEHE, WHAT'S THIS? SO YOU KNEW ABOUT IT?
MY PSYCHIC POWERS WERE BOGUS BUT NOW IT'S THE REAL DEAL.
I'M PLEASED BY THIS STRANGE WORLD YOU HAVE CREATED
TSU-KANO-KUN
LET'S MAKE THIS TOWN FUN FROM NOW ON.
YOU AND ME.
HE HE HE


AS HE DISCOVERED MANY FAMOUS PLACES AND MADE THEM VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE, THE TOWN RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.
THE NEXT DAY THAT TRANSFER STUDENT ENDED UP TRANSFERRING ONCE AGAIN.


NEVER THE LESS, I WONDER WHAT STRANGE DISCOVERIES THAT TRANSFER STUDENT IS FINDING AT HIS NEXT SCHOOL.
ACCORDING TO RUMORS, KITAGAWA WENT SEARCHING EVERYWHERE FOR TSUKANO
AND JUST LIKE THAT THE SUPERNATURAL CLUB CAME TO AN END.
BUT SHIBAYAMA-KUN WASN'T REVIVED. KITAGAWA DISAPPEARED RIGHT AFTER AS WELL.

END * THE SUPERNATURAL TRANSFER STUDENT

MAPTOWN

STORY AND ART BY

JUNJI ITO

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CLEANER - OTAKUCHARM
PROOFREADER - OROCHIMARU
TYPESETTER - LBORL
Q/C - KAIJU KOI

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